Hafa Adai!

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NMC faculty, staff mum on Hart renewal. PAGE 5
CUC opposes rate relief for public schools. PAGE 8

Quichocho nominated as judge

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

On the day Gov. Eloy S. Inos flew to Guam to meet with a U.S. Navy admiral, acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider nominated attorney Ramon "Ray" King Quichocho to serve on the CNMI Superior Court as associate judge. The appointment immediately drew mixed reactions that could make or break Quichocho's confirmation at the Senate.

Quichocho

This is the first time that Hofschneider, as acting governor, made an ap-

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COURTESY CALL
U.S. NAVY/TIMOTHY WILSON
Gov. Eloy Inos of the Northern Mariana Islands and Rear Adm. Tilghman Payne, commander, Joint Region Marianas, shake hands during an office call, on May 9 in Piti, Guam. During the visit, Inos and Payne discussed initiatives that will continue to increase communication and strengthen partnerships between the Department of Defense and the CNMI.

Report: 4 inexpensive products can save newborns

By CATHY PAYNE
USA TODAY

This Mother's Day, many women will squeeze their children in their arms while others will have to hold their babies in their hearts.

A report released today shines light on the plight of women whose babies died shortly after birth.

More than one million babies die on their birth day every year worldwide, according to a report from Save the Children, a non-profit that aims to improve the lives of boys and girls in need around the world.

That makes a baby's first day the riskiest day of his or her life—in the USA and other countries, according to the 14th annual State of the World's Mothers report. Released in the run-up to Mother's Day, the report aims to increase awareness of the needs

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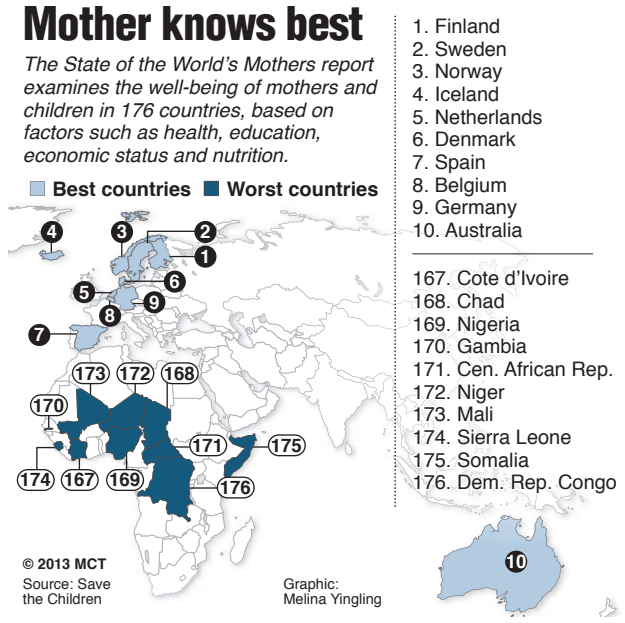

House OKs tax amnesty until Jan. 1, 2014

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Electronic gaming machines in hotels OK'd
» 10 bills passed, 6 resolutions adopted

Two major revenue-generating bills passed the House of Representatives late yesterday afternoon—one that provides a tax amnesty until Jan. 1, 2014, instead of until Jan. 1, 2017, as originally proposed, and one that amends the definition of "gambling device" to exclude electronic gaming machines in certain hotels on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

These two measures are among the 10 bills that the House passed and six resolutions adopted by the House.

Of the 10 bills passed, three are Senate bills that are now headed to the governor for action.

By a vote of 14-0 with one abstention and five absences, the House

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MORE INSIDE

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➤ Eucon gears up for 10-year accreditation. PAGE 6
➤ Jury awards $670,250 to crash victim. PAGE 21

GOT A NEWS TIP?
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OPINION METER
This week's poll:
DO you support a U.S. military plan to lease Pagan?
Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

WORLD

Seven are dead, two are missing after a ship crashes in Genoa.
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SCIENCE & TECH

The visor-like, wearable computer Google Glass is taken for a spin.
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LIFE & STYLE

Charles Ramsey gets a turbulent 15 minutes of fame.
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Local

Samsung GALAXY S4
WHOA, MAMA!
Give a Galaxy to your out of this world Mom!
• 2x Quad-Core Processors
• 1920x1080 5" Gorilla Glass 3 Screen
• 13MP Camera & 2MP Front Camera
• Android OS - Jelly Bean
$499
Available in Black & White
Dual Shot: Simultaneously shoot with the front and the rear camera and experience the party together!
Air Gesture: Motion your hand over the S4 to answer your phone, speed dial, change music and browse the web.
Smart Pause: Whenever you look away, the S4 pauses whatever you're watching so you don't miss anything.
Clear Unlimited Voice, WNE, SMS and Max Data Plan $79.45 per month
NTT docomo
DOCOMO PACIFIC
The Choice is Clear
483-CARE Middle Road
www.docomopacific.com
24 month agreement - Minimum 1000 minute Clear Plan, WNE & Max Data Plan…or higher

Field voting for Philippine mid-term elections begins

Field voting on Saipan for the Philippines' 2013 mid-term elections started in earnest yesterday at the Kristo Rai Parish Social Hall.

The three-man electoral team from the Philippine Consulate General in Guam, led by Consul Edgar Tomas Q. Auxilian, arrived at the venue half an hour late due to a flight delay.

Apart from that, Auxilian said the field voting had no problems on its first day, with around 35 voters casting their votes a little past 3pm yesterday.

Auxilian, who is the deputized special board of election chair, is accompanied on Saipan by Francisco Magno and Allan Tangayan. The former is the special ballot custody and reception group chair while the latter is his staff.

Magno said their records show that there are more than 4,000 registered Filipino overseas absentee voters in the CNMI.

However, more than 1,500 absentee ballots were returned to the Philippine Consulate General in Guam, necessitating the conduct of the last-minute field voting for the benefit of those who were not able to receive their absentee ballots.

When asked why the Filipino community on Saipan only knew about the conduct of the field voting less than 24 hours before they arrived, Auxilian said that even the Philippine Consulate General in Guam was caught by surprise and only knew about the field voting on Saipan last Wednesday.

Helping Auxilian and company in conducting the field voting are volunteers from the United Filipino Organization led by its president, Annamae Adaza.

The field voting on Saipan for the Philippines' mid-term elections will continue today and tomorrow, from 8:30am to 6pm on both days, at the same venue. All registered Filipino overseas absentee voters in the CNMI are eligible to cast their votes.

The field voting on Saipan is in line with the May 13 election for senators and party-list representatives in the Philippines.

Only those who meet the following criteria will be allowed to participate in the field voting:

1. Those registered overseas voters who have already received their ballots via postal service may submit their duly accomplished ballots to the electoral team (instead of sending them via postal service to the consulate).

2. Those who are on the Certified List of Voters, or CLOV, who have not yet received their ballots may come to cast their votes. Ballots will be provided to them by the electoral team at the voting precinct/venue.

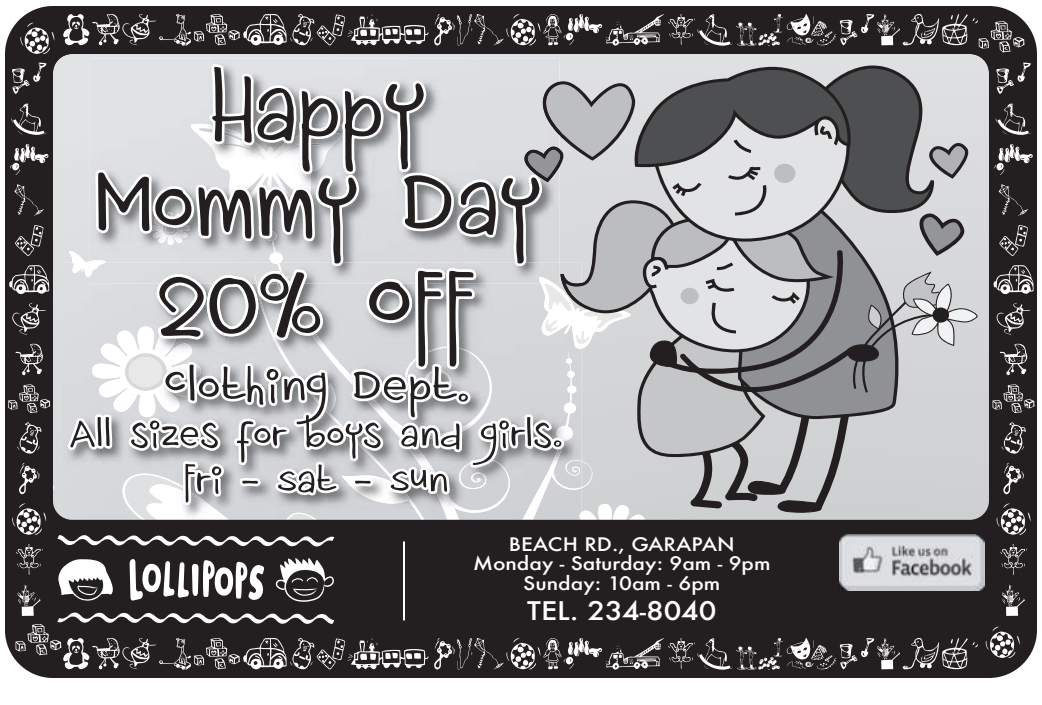
3. Those whose names are on the list of those who failed to vote in the last two overseas absentee voting/elections (in 2007 and 2010) may also be allowed to vote.

The CLOV and the list of those who failed to vote in the last two elections are posted in the consulate website, www.philippinesguam.org, as well as in the consulate's Facebook account, Agana PCG. Please check if your names are on these lists.

All registered overseas absentee voters are advised to bring with them a valid Philippine passport or any valid I.D. for identification purposes when they come to the field voting venue.

All registered Filipino overseas absentee voters on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are urged to take advantage of the chance to cast or submit their ballots at the field voting.

Also, passports that were processed last March 21-24, 2013, during the consular services at Joeten Daidai Social Hall will be released. The consulate will not entertain passport renewals and applications during the field voting. ***(Saipan Tribune)***



i'm lovin' it

New Premium McWRAP

It's a fresh new world with the Premium McWrap!

Choose from three different flavors in grilled of crispy. Chicken and Bacon, Chicken and Ranch, or Sweet Chili Chicken. All wraps are made with chicken breast fillet, gorgeous fresh vegetables and served in a soft, warm tortilla.

UNWRAP A FRESH FEAST

PREMIUM MCWRAP CHICKEN & BACON (CRISPY/GRILLED)

PREMIUM MCWRAP SWEET CHILI CHICKEN (CRISPY/GRILLED)

PREMIUM MCWRAP CHICKEN & RANCH (CRISPY/GRILLED)

MOTHER'S DAY DISCOUNTS AND PROMOS

Retailers, food outlets toast mothers

Businesses on island are pulling out all the stops to make sure that Mother's Day this Sunday will be truly special for ever dearest "nana."

Florists and jewelry shops no longer corner the market during this holiday, as hoteliers, restaurants, clothing boutiques, beauty salons, gadget stores, and even sunset cruise tours all want a piece of the action.

Here is a rundown of deep discounts and door-buster promotions available on Saipan this Mother's Day:

FOODIES
Fiesta Resort & Spa

The Hotel Street landmark is ditching last year's mother-and-daughter fashion show for something simpler this year.

F&B director Das Krishnan said the theme for this year's celebration is a family get-together at the hotel's World Café outlet.

The buffet table, Krishnan said, will have roast beef, lechon, Peking duck, as well as a wide spread of various dessert. Free-flowing champagne, beer, wine, and soda will also be available.

Fiesta Resort's Mother's Day buffet will be from 11am to 2pm and is $25 for adults and $12.50 for children 4-11 years old. The price includes a free family portrait and a special gift for mom.

For reservations, call 234-7171 Ext. 1547/1548.

Pacific Islands Club

Those going to Pacific Islands Club Saipan for Mother's Day can choose between two venues—brunch at The Magellan or brunch at the Pavilion. Both costs the same—$29 for adults and $14.50 for children 4-11 years old.

For reservations, call 237-5126.

On top of the Mother's Day brunch specials, the San Antonio resort is also offering special room deals—$139 for a Deluxe Room and $159 for Ocean Front Room. Both deals include a complimentary brunch and a Bvlgari Bath set.

For reservations, call 234-2042.

Aqua Resort Club

Good food, great entertainment, and a free family portrait is what Aqua Resort Club is offering during its Mother's Day Sunday Brunch.

Entertainment will be courtesy of Bobby and Ruthie Fruit, while the family portrait will be taken at the Taga Room.

The brunch itself costs $26 for adults and $15 for children 5-10 years old. Great prizes such as room accommodation and evening and brunch buffets will also be raffled off.

Tokie's Handicrafts Orchids and Ornamental Plants merchandise will also be on sale at the hotel lobby.

For reservations, call Gina at 322-1234 Ext. 773.

J's Restaurant

The quintessential island restaurant is also celebrating Mother's Day with its signature Mother's Day Special: New York steak, baked potato, broccoli salad, and minestone soup.

For reservations, call 235-8640 for its Middle Road outlet and 234-6420 for its Beach Road branch.

Next door to J's Restaurant Middle Road, "last-minute" fathers can purchase fresh flowers at Blossoms Floral Depot. Call 235-7362 or 235-2276 to place orders in advance.

MOMMY MAKEOVER
Cutz & Colours

As much as 25 percent off for any service (hair cut, hair styling, hair color, hair re-bonding, make-up, facial, manicure, and pedicure) and three session of therapeutic massage for $45 is what Cutz & Colours is offering in its Mother's Day promotion. To make an appointment, call 235-1990.

Serenity Salon & Spa

Serenity Salon & Spa is urging mothers to take advantage of its "1/2 price for every second service" on any of its signature services, including massages, hair, nail care, and waxing, among others. The "1/2 price for every second service" promotion is valid from May 10 to 12 only.

It is also offering a slew of packages from $55 to $200. For appointment, call 233-6688/2828/2288.

TECHNO MOM
Docomo

Have mom retire her old flip-top cell phone by buying her a spanking new Samsung Galaxy S4. For only $499, mama will enjoy the latest top-of-the-line android smart phone, which features include 2x Quad-Core Processors, 1920x1080 5" Gorilla Glass 3 Screen that runs using Android OS Jelly Bean.

The $499 price tag is under Docomo's Clear Unlimited Voice, WNE, SMS, and Max Data Plan, which costs $79.45 per month.

IT&E

Budget-conscious moms can finally have the android smart phone of their dreams without breaking the bank with IT&E's Samsung Galaxy Grand and Samsung Galaxy S III mini—all for $149 each.

Both sleek phones can be had at the amazingly low price by opting for IT&E's two-year Unlimited Android Plan.

WHAT SHE WEARS
Lollipops & Girls Talk

Lollipops is celebrating Mother's Day by offering 50 percent off at its clothing department from May 10 to 12. It sister store, Girl Talk, will be having an even bigger discount—50 percent off on selected spring/summer playwear.

Lollipops and Girl Talk owner Penelope Hofschneider said she's more than happy to give discounts to island mothers on this very special day.

"For all the hardworking moms out there who somehow find time for their spouses, children, households, extended family, friends, career and other obligations, Lollipops is having a huge sale in its clothing department. All dressy and playwear for boys and girls will be 20-percent off on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. At Girl Talk, a huge selection of spring/summer merchandise for girls ages 8 to 12 will be marked down 50-percent off this weekend. The staff and management of Lollipops, Inc. hopes all families will have a joyful Mother's Day!" she said.

YTT Gold Jewelry

Whoever coined the phrase "Diamonds are a girl's best friend" wasn't kidding so why not buy mom a new piece of jewelry. And there's no better time than Mother's Day to buy jewelry as YTT Gold Jewelry will be slashing 20-50 percent off on selected items at its store.

MOM'S DAY STAPLE

Dollar Days Flowers & Gifts Mother's Day won't be complete without flowers and Dollar Days Flowers & Gifts is selling Mother's Day gift packages and flower arrangements such as a Mother's Day Bouquet, Mother's Day Lucky Bamboo, and Fresh Flowers with Spring Collection (roses, carnations, lilies, and gerbera) for the occasion. For orders, call 233-2828/233-6688.

Design Florist

Mom deserves the best and Design Florist believes it can deliver with its flower arrangements. Single rose wrap ($5), a dozen roses ($50), spring arrangements ($40 and up), and gift baskets ($40 and up) are some of the items it is offering this Mother's Day.

Store hours are from 8:30am to 6pm, Monday-Saturday.

For orders, call 234-1414, 234-5593, or 235-8572.

New Paradise Florist

New Paradise Florist has three Mother's Day packages: Option A consists of six full bloom roses with mini roses in a bas-

See MOTHERS on Next Page

Destined to become a classic.

Egg White Delight McMuffin

Make your morning with 100%, freshly grilled egg whites, extra lean Canadian bacon and smooth white cheddar*, stacked on a toasted English muffin made with eight grams of whole grain. Great taste for 250 calories.

*pasteurized process

STORE HOURS: Chalan Pale Arnold Road: 6:30AM to 10:00PM • Garapan Express: OPEN 24 HRS. DAILY (24/7) • Chalan Pale Arnold Road 235-8577 • Garapan Express 233-8577 • Office Tel. 235-8761 - Fax. 235-8760 • E-mail: mcdonalds@pticom.com

Finance delivers $1.3M in 10 checks to Fund

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Since the April 19, 2013, status hearing in federal court, the Department of Finance has already delivered to the NMI Retirement Fund 10 checks totaling $1,287,608.93, according to acting Fund administrator Lillian Pangelinan.

In her declaration filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Wednesday, Pangelinan disclosed that the $833,000 the Fund trustee *ad litem* attorneys said the government owes the Fund as of March 31, 2013, was actually understated.

Pangelinan said the Fund reviewed its own figures and discovered that the shortage as of March 31, 2013, was actually $1,501,969.60.

In explaining the error in the April 19 calculation, Pangelinan said the Fund inadvertently included $215,620.14 in employer contributions for federally funded employees, to arrive at the $833,217.64 amount.

"It is my understanding that federal funds are not appropriated by the CNMI Legislature and should not be included as part of the $10 million appropriation," she said.

Second, Pangelinan noted that, in order to arrive at the $833,217.64 amount, the Fund relied on spreadsheets that contained inadvertent errors because its financial statements had not been disclosed and reconciled for the month.

Pangelinan said in an effort to provide the information to the trustee *ad litem* and his attorneys as timely as possible for the settlement and status conferences, the compiled data contained overstated remittance amounts due to errors created by culling numbers from different spreadsheets.

She said the $10 million appropriation equates to 12 monthly remittances of $833,333.33 each, or 24 semi-monthly remittances of $416,666.67.

Pangelinan said that March 31, 2013, was the halfway point of fiscal year 2013; by then, the Fund should have received $5 million of the $10 million appropriation.

She said she can now report that the Fund has received $3,498,030.40 in employer contributions for locally funded employees as of March 31, 2013.

"If the amounts received by the Fund are attributable to the [fiscal year] 2013 $10 million appropriation, the difference between the amounts that should have been and were actually received is $1,501,969.60," said Pangelinan, adding that she has verified these numbers with Finance.

Following the April 19 status conference, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood issued a written order directing Finance Secretary Larissa Larson to work with Pangelinan to determine whether there is a shortage in the allotments owed the Fund.

The judge further directed Larson to transfer to the Fund by April 23, 2013, any money owed that is not in dispute.

QUICHOCHO

From Page 1

pointment.

Inos left yesterday for Guam to meet with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas and Joint Region Marianas Rear Adm. Tilghman D. Payne, press secretary Angel Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*. The U.S. Department of Defense plans to establish live-fire training areas on Tinian and Pagan. Inos was expected to return last night.

Quichocho's appointment requires the Senate's advice and consent.

If confirmed by the Senate, Quichocho will serve a six-year term. Quichocho has his own law offices since 2002.

If confirmed, Quichocho will be filling the Superior Court vacancy left by former associate judge Perry Inos, who is now associate justice in the CNMI Supreme Court.

"I respectfully request your favorable action on this nomination," Hofschneider told Senate president Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) in a one-page letter appointing Quichocho. Both are originally from Tinian.

Torres said in a phone interview that just like any other governor's appointee, Quichocho's will be referred to the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations that Sen. Frank Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) chairs.

Quichocho, in a statement, said, "It is an honor to be nominated as associate judge of the Superior Court."

"With this honor is the awesome responsibility to be fair and impartial. That I will do. With the utmost gratitude, I thank God Almighty, Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, and friends and families and my clients for the confidence and belief in me. I now humbly ask the Senate for its advice and consent," he said.

Sen. Victor Hocog (R-Rota) said it will be a "rough and bumpy road ahead" for Quichocho. He also said "there will be lots of hot air surrounding this appointment."

Other government officials and community members pointed to lawsuits that Quichocho's own clients filed against him.

Quichocho was among those who strongly supported former governor Benigno R. Fitial's impeachment.

He was also the attorney for Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan) and the Senate in a taxpayer's lawsuit against a sole-source $190.8-million diesel power purchase agreement that Fitial and former attorney general Edward Buckingham signed with Saipan Development LLC. That PPA is still under court injunction.

Hofschneider, in his letter to Quichocho yesterday, said he is pleased that Quichocho is willing to serve the CNMI as associate judge.

"I have every confidence that you will fulfill the many duties and responsibilities this position carries with impartiality and in good conscience at all times. If I can be of any assistance in the confirmation process, please let me know," he said.

Bar rating

The CNMI Bar Association could rate a nominee for judge whether he or she is qualified or not for the position, according to Association president Sean Frink yesterday.

Frink said the Bar adopted a resolution in 2002 that if there is a nomination for a judge, members could start a process where they review a candidate's qualification thoroughly and come up with a rating.

He said Bar members will rate the nominee and provide the results to the Senate and to the public.

"It's a rating," Frink said, adding that it takes probably a week to get the results.

The Bar, however, cannot issue a unified position to oppose or support the nomination of a certain lawyer, Frink said.

"We're a very diverse group with divergent opinions. And we're mandatory membership organization. The Bar doesn't take a political position," he said.

Frink said they can only rate the nominee whether he or she is qualified or not, or highly qualified or totally unqualified.

Bar sources disclosed that some persons are expected stand up and oppose Quichocho's nomination during public and confirmation hearings. They refused to elaborate.

Frink said no decision has been reached yet whether the Bar will rate Quichocho. ***(With Ferdie de la Torre)***

NEWBORNS

From Page 1

of mothers and children around the world.

The leading causes of newborn deaths are prematurity, birth complications and severe infections.

"It's hard to imagine the depth of one mother's pain in losing her baby the very day she gives birth, let alone a million times over," says Carolyn Miles, president and CEO of Save the Children, which is based in Westport, Conn. "Yet, this report is full of hope. It shows there is a growing movement to save newborn lives and growing evidence that we can do it."

Four products costing between 13 cents and $6 each can save newborns—many on the first day of life, Miles says. Resuscitation devices can help babies breathe, and the antiseptic chlorhexidine can prevent umbilical cord infections. Injectable antibiotics can treat infections, and steroid injections for women in preterm labor can help premature babies' lungs develop.

Save the Children, which does not sell products, aims to make sure that health workers in high-risk countries have the supplies they need to save newborns. The organization works with health officials and donors to make the products available. Save the Children is funded through a variety of public and private sources, including corporations, foundations, individual giving and the United States Agency for International Development.

MOTHERS

From Page 3

ket; option B is six roses, stuffed toys, chocolate, HMD Balloon, and HMD Pick in a Basket; while Option C includes a dozen roses, stuffed toys, chocolate, HMD Balloon, and HMD Pick in a Basket.

It also has orchids, lucky bamboo, fruit and wine baskets, and gift baskets. For orders, call 233-9875.

SAIL AND OTHER SALES

Saipan Sunset Cruise

Give mom a day she will forever remember by treating her to a sunset cruise this Mother's Day.

Saipan Sunset Cruise's Mother's Day promotion is good for May 10-12 aboard *Jade Lady III,* with Jerry Alcantara serenading everyone onboard. For reservations, call 234-8230.

Taro Sue Store

From May 9 to 11, Taro Sue Store will be offering up to 75-percent off on gift items, novelty collections, and display and up to 25-percent off on ladies bags, luggage, clothing, beddings, furniture, kitchen items, and housewares.

Joeten Shopping Center

For Mother's Day, Joeten Shopping Center is slashing its prices by up to 25 percent on assorted items, ranging from men's wear and ladies wear, watches, handbags, sandals and slippers, housewares, hair dryers and clippers, and wine racks and ice buckets. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

HOUSE

From Page 1

passed Rep. Tony Sablan's (IR-Saipan) tax amnesty measure, House Bill 18-28, House Draft 1.

Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan) said she abstained for "personal reasons." She has a pending small claims before the court.

Sablan, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, reiterated that a tax amnesty program is the "most cost-effective" way for the government to collect tax revenue during difficult economic times and one that is "better than writing off" debts to the government.

If this bill becomes law, this would only be the third time that the CNMI government will provide a tax amnesty. They were done in 2001 and 2005.

Under a tax amnesty program, penalties and interests on unpaid or unreported taxes are waived. It allows taxpayers to voluntarily come forward and take action to comply with tax laws.

A committee report recommending the bill's passage said tax amnesty usually results in accelerated collection of overdue tax revenues to the government, although the program's primary goal is to bring taxpayers back into compliance, thus strengthening future revenue collection.

Under the committee-amended bill, the tax amnesty takes effect upon the bill's signing into law and shall remain until Jan. 1, 2014. Sablan's original proposal is to have the amnesty program run until Jan. 1, 2017.

In yesterday's session, Sablan said the Department of Finance's concerns are addressed by the "exclusion" or exemption provision of the bill.

The tax amnesty does not apply to the following: persons against whom a criminal or civil action has been initiated and is pending for any violation of CNMI tax laws or any person being investigated for fraud; any person who has been convicted of tax fraud; any person who source of income is illegal; and any person who fraudulently files a special return under this Act.

The government has "at least" $12 million to $30 million in uncollected taxes based on the Executive Branch's previous statements to the media.

Sablan's proposal also waives the penalty for failure to obtain a business license.

Covered under the proposal are all taxes, including withholding taxes and all returns, including deductions, exemptions, and credits erroneously claimed in returns filed for all tax years prior to calendar year 2013.

These include taxes for wages, salary or earnings; gross revenue tax; room, bar and jackpot tax; excise tax; and income and/or tax pursuant to NMTIT.

Gaming machines at hotels

By a vote of 14-1, the House also passed Sablan's House Bill 18-51, HD4, which provides additional gaming entertainment for tourists by amending the definition of gambling device to exclude electronic gaming machines.

This is geared toward tourists from China.

If this revenue-generating bill becomes law, it will allow electronic table games such as poker, roulette, blackjack, craps, big wheel, slot machines, baccarat, pai gow and sic bo, as well as any of their variations or composites.

Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan) was the only one who gave a resounding "no" to the bill.

Dela Cruz said this is just like any other form of gambling that he does not support.

"I oppose any form of gambling that is not decided by the people of Saipan. This is mainly to entice Chinese tourists. I don't have anything against tourists from China, I welcome them wholeheartedly. But the issue of gaming itself is one that I can't support at this time unless they are decided by voters," Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune* shortly after the session that ended around 5pm.

Dela Cruz said sooner or later, "our people will get their hands on these devices too."

Poker machines, for example, were initially envisioned to target tourists but later catered to residents and barely any tourist plays in poker parlors anymore.

"The social impacts will outweigh any economic benefit," Dela Cruz added.

In yesterday's session, Sablan offered three floor amendments, all of which were adopted.

The bill requires that all electronic table games must comply with the latest International Technical Standards set by Global Gaming Laboratories International LLC and SIQ Gaming Laboratories. The latter was added through Sablan's first floor amendment.

Sablan's second amendment has to do with temporary operation of electronic gaming machines at an offsite location owing to the current shortage of hotel rooms on Saipan and the time involved to build a hotel.

It said anyone wishing to operate electronic gaming machines may commence interim operations at an offsite location upon posting a $5 million construction bond. This bond serves as a guarantee that construction of a hotel with no less than 100 rooms will commence within 24 months of the bond's posting. The hotel is also supposed to be completed and operating within 36 months of the bond's posting.

After the hotel construction is completed, the interim operation ceases and all electronic table games will be housed at the hotel.

Sablan's third floor amendment has to do with the definition of hotel or resort where electronic table games are allowed. From 200 or more rooms, a qualified hotel or resort should only have at least 100 rooms. They could also have fewer than 100 rooms so long as the hotel is attached to a golf course.

Another bill still under committee review proposes casino gaming on Saipan.

NMC faculty, staff mum on Hart renewal

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

If faculty members and staffers at the Northern Marianas College used to be vocal in their criticism of NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D. prior to and during the board's deliberation on her employment contract, a different behavior is now being seen among NMC employees.

Several instructional and non-instructional faculty members declined to give any public reaction to the recent decision by the Board of Regents to renew Hart's two-year contract.

Among the first who refused to comment on the issue is Marie Coleman, who resigned effective today due to personal reasons. She told *Saipan Tribune*, however, that as a community member her commitment will continue to be for NMC.

Coleman was president of NMC Senate Staff and served as an honorary board member for more than a year. She represented the college's estimated 70 staffers on the board.

Also seemingly quiet about Hart's renewal is Amanda Diaz, the president of the college faculty. Numerous calls and email inquiries sent to her since last week all failed to get a response.

Diaz's group gave a no-confidence vote against Hart in December last year, accusing her of multiple issues, including alleged abuse of power and mismanagement. The Board of Regents later declared the vote invalid due to a lack of quorum.

In random interviews with other personnel on campus during the NMC Charter Day celebration, no one expressed willingness to cite their personal reactions if they will be named in the news article. They said they're just avoiding any retaliation that may come their way if they speak out.

At least four employees also cited a college "gag order" against personnel talking to the media in an effort not to impact the accreditation of the institution.

Some employees, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they are unhappy with the board's decision but many others said they are "optimistic" and "hopeful" that the decision will bring positive changes for the college.

New Senate Staff president

With Coleman's resignation, Staff Senate vice president Daniel Kintol will assume the role of president.

According to Kintol, Coleman cared tremendously for the staff and the college and carried out her responsibilities very effectively.

"Although we are sad to see her leave the college, we wish her all the best in her future endeavors," he said yesterday.

Kintol said that he looks forward to working with the other Staff Senate members to build upon the work and progress that Coleman accomplished.

"There are many challenges that lie ahead of us, but there is nothing that we can't do if we work together," said Kintol, who works at the college's testing center.

Inos visits Joint Region Marianas

PITI, Guam—Gov, Eloy Inos of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands visited Rear Adm. Tilghman Payne, commander, Joint Region Marianas, on May 9.

During the visit, Inos and Payne discussed initiatives that will continue to increase communication and strengthen partnerships between the Department of Defense and the CNMI.

"It's a partnership and I'm here because we want to honor our obligation to our national defense and defense of our country," Inos said. "I am happy that the admiral made some time for me to be here."

Payne reiterated that continued dialogue between the DoD and local governments is critically important to rebalancing military forces in the Pacific.

"It was great to have Governor Inos stop by today to talk about the Department of Defense and the Northern Mariana Islands," Payne said. "Our continuing dialogue is part of a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship." ***(PR)***

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Eucon gears up for 10-year accreditation

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Eucon International College is gearing up for an upcoming visit by a team from the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools, which will conduct an onsite evaluation of the institution and its programs this month.

The three-day evaluation is scheduled for May 20-23, focusing on the college's reaffirmation status.

TRACS is a nationally recognized accrediting agency and is on the U.S. Department of Education's List of Approved Accrediting Agencies. The organization is also recognized by the Council for the Higher Education Accreditation. According to Eucon, third-party comments are encouraged and can be forwarded to TRACS, 15935 Forest Road, Forest, VA 24551.

Saipan Tribune learned that Eucon International College was first approved a five-year accreditation in 2008. Once this accreditation is reaffirmed, the status will be valid for 10 years and the institution will be required to submit annual reports.

Eucon held its seventh commencement exercises on Saturday, conferring bachelor of science in Education and bachelor of arts in Bible degrees on 11 students this year

The graduates are Zhe "Dawn" Dong, Ting Ting "Hellen" Guan, Yasa "Grace" Guo, An Tian "Ann" Liu, Xixila "Lydia" Mao, Xin Jun "Leo" Mao, Qun "Richard" Xian, Yuan Yuan "Emily" Sun, Bai Qing "Grace" Tian, Si Jie "Nancy" Wang, and Yu Ying "Kylie" Xing.

Five of these graduates were accepted by the Liberty International University in Virginia and Pensacola Christian College in Florida for their master's degrees while others have been accepted to a job at the college.

Saturday's graduation was keynoted by acting Department of Public Lands secretary Pete A. Tenorio, who is also the governor's senior adviser.

Eucon president and founder Dr. Christian Wei challenged the graduates and the congregation to be steadfast and preach God's Word wherever and in what situation they may be.

For more information about the Eucon, visit www.eucon.edu.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This year's graduates of Eucon International College during the institution's 7th Commencement Exercises on Saturday on campus.

WEDDED BLISS

Happy 15th wedding anniversary to the world's greatest parents, Stanley and Zenaida Santos, from Kagman 3. May this day bring you more memories, love, and happiness forever. God bless you both and we love you. Greetings come from your kids on Saipan and in Guam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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CUC opposes rate relief for public schools

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is opposing a bill that aims to provide rate relief to public schools, saying that CUC will incur huge deficits if charges for the school system are lowered without a corresponding budget allocation for other agencies.

According to acting CUC executive director Alan Fletcher yesterday, CUC does not favor the passage of Senate Bill 18-7 in its current form.

"If PSS rates are lowered without a corresponding budget allocation to other government agencies, then the utility will continue to run huge deficits and further risk operational stability," he said.

SB 18-7 seeks to reduce by 98.4 percent and 95.6 percent the water and wastewater rates for PSS. This bill was passed by the Senate recently and now goes to the House.

Fletcher said the bill shifts the costs of lower bills for PSS to other government agencies.

"I can only assume other agencies may have a different view of their rates increasing. Please remember, CUC is a 'zero-sum' business. Our rates and charges are designed to only recover our cost of delivering services. So when one rate change occurs, any deficits must be made up by other consumers," he said.

» Fletcher: Issue with PSS is about budget appropriation, prioritization

Fletcher said the government-class rate issue being questioned goes beyond PSS and affects all agencies, such as the central government, the hospital, and the ports authority.

In addition, he believes the issue with PSS is one of "budget appropriation and prioritization."

If the CNMI government appropriates the full cost of utilities to PSS and other departments and agencies, then each could pay the cost of utilities, he said.

PSS earlier said that it needs $4 million to pay its CUC bill. This fiscal year, the school system was allocated only $3 million for utilities.

Just six months into fiscal year 2013, PSS is already out of money to pay for its power consumption following disclosure that it incurred $2.390 million in utility charges from October 2012 through March 2013. This amount excludes late charges.

Education officials said that PSS is being charged 10 times more for water and 20 times more for sewer usage compared to commercial users.

PSS' current water rate is $44.30 per 1,000 gallons; for sewer use, the rate is $68 per 1,000 gallons.

The commercial rate for water is 72 cents per 1,000 to 3,000 gallons; for wastewater, it is only $3 for 1,000 to 6,000 gallons.

The Senate bill states that CUC "shall charge the Public School System the commercial rate for water and wastewater." This means that the PSS water rate will be reduced by 98.4 percent.

Under the bill, CUC is recommended to recover the decrease in PSS water and wastewater rates by passing it on to its water and wastewater customers who pay the government rate.

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Japanese group to perform traditional dances at Taste

Those heading to tomorrow's 15th Annual Taste of Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden are in for a cultural treat as a Japanese group will be performing Ryukyu traditional dances for all to enjoy.

Ryukyu traditional dance is divided into four types—classical dance, popular dances, folk dances, and creative dance.

Classical dance is the style developed at the court of the Ryukyu kingdom. Popular dances are those that portray images of ordinary people's lives and sentiments. Folk dancing consists of dances performed at religious rituals from ancient times passed down in different parts of the archipelago. Creative dances are new dances combining modern elements with traditional dance.

"I think it's a good opportunity for the public to watch the Ryukyu dance on Saipan. As you know, Saipan has a strong relationship with Okinawa. I hope they can enjoy it, especially elder people," said the group's coordinator and former CNMI resident, Aya Matsumoto.

The Ryukyu traditional dance group will perform at the Taste of the Marianas starting 6pm.

The dance group is part of a larger Buddhist contingent called Nenpou Shinkyo, which primarily visits Saipan to pray for Japanese World War II dead in Marpi.

The group will hold their annual Peace Memorial Service at the Japanese Peace Memorial in Marpi on Sunday where Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, and Japan Consul Koji Hino are expected to attend.

On Saturday, Nenpou Shinkyo members will take part in a volunteer cleanup activity at the Banzai Cliff and Japanese Peace Memorial in Marpi. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 10, 2004

Govt: $33M in CUC overcharge

The CNMI government claimed Friday that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has been overcharging government offices by over $33 million for its water usage in the last 10 years. Also, the CUC, despite the implementation of rate adjustment in 1997 for electrical consumption, the utility corporation had in fact overcharged the CNMI government by another $9.1 million, it said. In a letter to CUC executive director Lorraine Babauta, Finance Secretary Fermin Atalig said the validity of water readings provided by the CUC is questionable since most of the government agencies do not receive 24-hour water service.

Filipino workers rally vs proposed labor bill

Dozens of Filipino workers yesterday assembled near a Garapan restaurant owned by the family of Rep. Ray Yumul to oppose a measure the lawmaker had introduced that aims to implement major changes in the Nonresident Workers Act. The workers scored certain provisions in Yumul's House Bill 14-142 or the Alien Workers Act of 2004, which seeks in part to limit alien workers' stay in the CNMI even if they have pending labor or court claims. All members of the House except for Rep. Janet Maratita have signed the bill. The groups urged Yumul to consider the concerns of Filipino workers in the CNMI, which comprise a large part of the Commonwealth's alien workforce.

May 10, 2005

Power plant runs out of fuel

Power outages hit Garapan and other villages after the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s power plant in Puerto Rico ran out of fuel yesterday morning. Capitol Hill, Kagman, and other villages connected to CUC's Feeder 4 experienced a power interruption from 10:30am to 10:45am. As soon as the power went back on the Feeder 4 areas, CUC turned Feeder 2 offline. This caused almost three hours of power outage in Garapan and Chalan Laulau, down to the San Jose stoplight on Beach Road. Feeder 2 is the only CUC feeder that does not provide power to any school. Garapan Elementary School is connected to Feeder 1.

DPS: Many commuters still not buckling up

There are still too many people driving and riding cars and other vehicles in the CNMI who don't buckle up, according to the Department of Public Safety. During the "Buckle Up in Your Truck" proclamation signing yesterday, the DPS acknowledged that "far too many drivers and passengers in the CNMI still do not buckle up despite the heightened educational campaign being conducted by the department." This, even as authorities warned that pickup trucks involved in fatal crashes "roll over twice as often as passenger cars." By wearing a safety belt, the risk of dying in a rollover crash is reduced by up to 80 percent.

May 10, 2006

Govt's FY04 deficit totals $153M

The CNMI government's unreserved deficit totaled $153 million as of Sept. 30, 2004-a whooping $34-million increase compared with the prior year's deficit of $118.4 million, or a $113-million growth over 10 years, according to the Office of the Public Auditor. The number is based on OPA's review of the single audit performed by independent auditing firm Deloitte & Touche on the CNMI government for fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2004. OPA said the total deficit increased mainly due to the "failure of the general fund to pay employee retirement contributions totaling $111 million, resulting in the assessment of $19 million in penalties and interests due from the general fund to the NMI Retirement Fund."

Intersection sees 4 mishaps in 5 days

The Beach Road-Quartermaster Road intersection is proving to be a dangerous zone for motorists after four vehicular accidents occurred in the area in the past five days. Fortunately, no one was killed in those four accidents. Yesterday morning, Saipan Tribune learned from witnesses that a Garapan-bound Toyota Echo driven by a woman rammed into the newly constructed island in the area and hit the traffic sign on it. The woman was not injured. Her car had extensive damage to the hood portion. The accident was followed yesterday afternoon when a Ford Runner with license plate SILENCR collided with a Toyota Corolla with license plate ABY 366. No one was injured. Witnesses said the Toyota Corolla, driven by a female, came from Quartermaster Road when it suddenly crossed toward Beach Road. The car ended up ramming the right front side of the Ford Runner that was heading toward Garapan.

CHA: 'Of snow and pearls'

ADVERTISING Feature

If you need a thirst-quencher in the middle of a scorching, energy-depleting day or just a place to unwind and relax with friends in the evening, head on down to *cha*, a new, hip, urban teahouse along Beach Road across Garapan Elementary School.

Don't let its bare hole-in-the-wall façade and low-key interior fool you, as *cha* lets its novel teas and snow pearls do the talking.

While there's been an explosion of establishments selling pearl shakes and smoothies on island, *cha* guarantees that a sip or two of their concoctions is enough to make anyone come back for more, and its popularity certainly proves it. *Cha*, which means "tea" in many different languages, aims to provide high-quality beverages for a good price.

Cha makes its pearl shakes from scratch using only the best ingredients such as tea from Asia and ingredients from the U.S. mainland. They cook their own tapioca pearls, brew their own tea daily, and unlike the ice crystals of other smoothies, *cha*'s are not "sharp" and are like snow to the touch.

Before opening the new teahouse, its owner researched and experimented with drinks and refreshments that would suit the island's clientele. He ended up with crisp, refreshing, and clean teas and pearl shakes that can be served with or without chewy tapioca pearls.

Its owner assures that he and his staff of three will work doubly hard to create a loyal customer base. To this end, *cha* offers a loyalty card for customers—a sixth purchase gets a free drink.

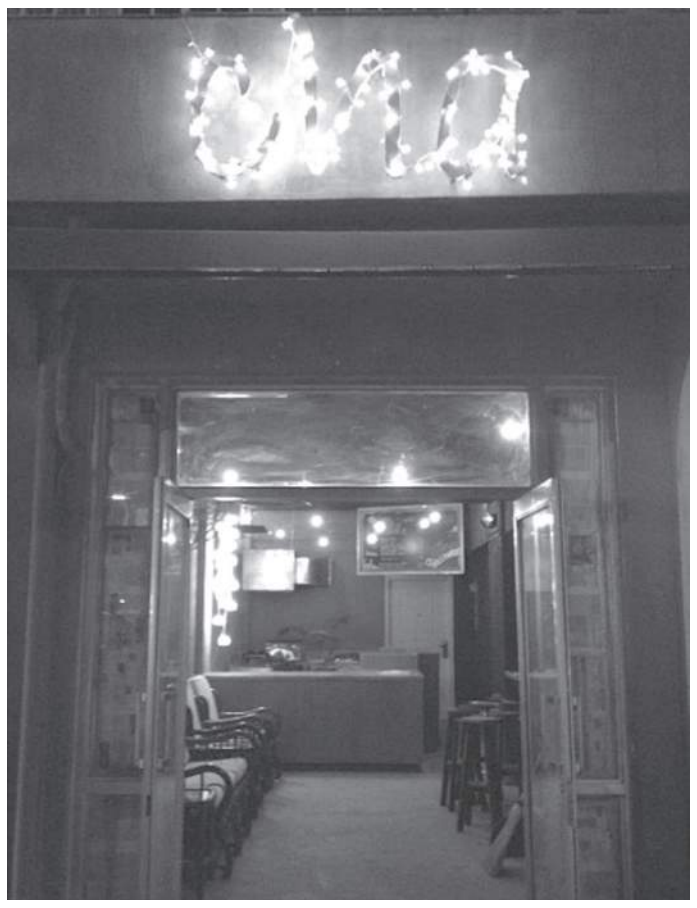
Cha's owner also said he opened *cha* to give teenagers on Saipan an alternative place to hang out after school or on weekends.

So far, sales have been brisk and its bestsellers have been iced green tea, iced black milk tea, strawberry snow, and mango snow.

Cha also offers iced black tea, iced green milk tea, lychee snow, passion fruit snow, peach snow, cantaloupe snow, and café sua da. The drinks range in prices from $3.50 to $4.50—a great deal considering the teahouse's location and its top-of-the-line ingredients.

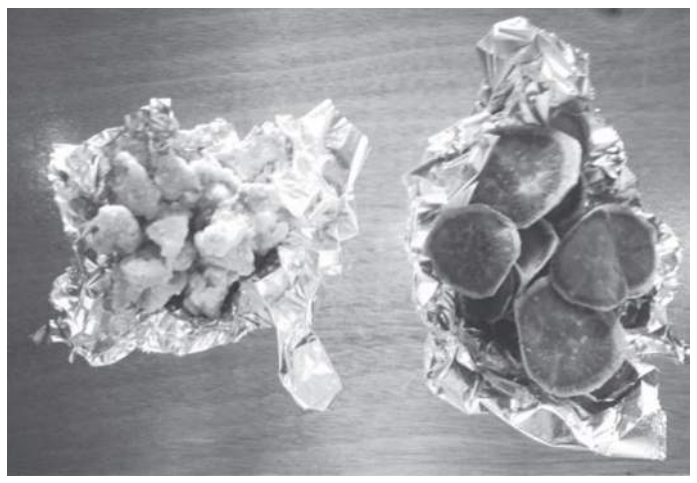
Aside from tea and pearl shakes, *cha* also sells snacks like Rota purple sweet potato chips—cut razor thin to make it superbly crunchy—and *cha* popcorn chicken, whose savory and spicy texture nicely complements *cha*'s slew of drinks.

Cha is open from 11am to 9pm Sunday to Thursday and from 11am to 10pm Friday and Saturday. ***(Saipan Tribune)***



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Don't let its bare hole-in-the-wall façade and low-key interior fool you, as cha lets its novel teas and snow pearls do the talking.



Cha's Rota purple sweet potato chips, left, popcorn chicken.

Cha's iced green milk tea pearls.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara is an ordained minister of the United Methodist Church and was pastor of Saipan Immanuel UMC at the second millenium's turn. He now writes from China.

The ultimate encounter

Peter Whitney, 45, was the son of colleagues Clare and Ken Whitney, erstwhile of the Order: Ecumenical, the Ecumenical Institute of Chicago, and the international Institute of Cultural Affairs. He died last week ahead of his parents.

I did not know Peter much save as a young kid when his parents and I, and a slew of 2,000 global personnel, were experimenting together with our being on what it means to be global responsible persons in the late 20th century along the imaginal thoughts of theologs like Bultmann, Tillich, Bonheoffer and the Niebuhrs, the movemental forces of Christian renewal that followed Vatican II, as well as the emergence of secular contemplatives following the historic bump of monks Thomas Merton and the Dalai Lama.

In the natural response of a father contemplating parents presiding over the demise of an offspring, we hit the bottomless abyss of grief. Though Peter's 45 would have just been ripe age in an earlier era (Jesus at 33 was an old man, the average life expectancy in his time was 33!), he is less than a decade older than my two eldest daughters who might have met him somewhere in the heyday of my social activism. That puts him on the young side of my ledger.

News of Peter's death came when while we were listening to Whitney Houston's *One Moment in Time,* a song we appropriated a long time ago as ours, with the one-moment-in-time metaphor now referring to our chosen 86-year journey. We were thinking of using the song to practice oral English's listen-repeat sessions. The diva's plaintive voice is so much more resonant on this side of her grave, tragic as her exit was, and we listened while describing the "weeping willows along the banks by our polluted school stream finally full of green tender tears" in our wordsmith-ing that we caught our own teardrops streaming down our cheek.

I am not generally this sentimental, though we noticed lately that the years seem to trigger the opening of the tear ducts faster than usual, but our present state of mind was assisted by a mailing we received from another colleague. Michael May in Indiana is spending a lot of reflective time on being a story warrior—in audiovisual and literary.

He produced a book from his 35-year family's bedtime rituals as a "story for the time between the myths," in Joseph Campbell's metaphor. Michael May is a story warrior, and I thought he might have something I can use in my work of teaching oral English to young Chinese children and their parents.

So I asked Michael if he can give me a sample of the book online, not having the wherewithal to get a hard copy sent to China. He did me one favor better. He sent the book along with a DVD, a collaborative production of www.storywarrior.net and www.transparentworks.com, on The Ultimate Encounter, using the relational practice formerly known as Contemplation as a format.

I did get the chance to review the Children's Bedtime Ritual book online, and familiar with the language, some we used with our own children, there was nothing earthshaking about it save the delight of seeing it together in one piece with engaging photos.

It was the DVD that pulled the rug from under our feet. The first of a projected decade-long project, the program promised the use of contemporary clinical language that is clean and clear, devoid of the heavy poetic metaphors of many traditions. There are no ac-

See ULTIMATE on Next Page

2014: Political calisthenics

Political trade horses have been quietly assessing what lies ahead as the gubernatorial season warms up to next year's Marianas-wide contest.

Some are optimistic; others guardedly swallowing the nagging sense of despair while still others aren't sure how to read what's on their radar screen.

Navigating the next gubernatorial contest would be a tough one for everybody. Old hands and new prospects would have to have solid credentials and proven business experience for scrutiny by the multitude. The focus would be on whether you have a vision and can you in fact formulate it into a palatable socio-economic blueprint for implementation. I'm not talking about black and white television either. It's vision, lai!

If the ongoing journey is mired in mediocrity for having ignored substantive issues since three decades ago, then the visit to the campaign trail becomes all uphill given that the multitude isn't ready for more of the same. And not when most households are struggling to survive the filthy swamp of economic disaster or cataclysm at home.

But issues of substance have come into the limelight where the simple folks have started muscling into discussions to be heard. It includes the planned military use of Pagan, the Fund that would go broke by March of next year, a fiscally crippled medical referral, the 6,000 jobless who have sought work unsuccessfully for more than seven years, among others.

The anemically disastrous economy and accompanying miseries make the challenge almost insurmountably blurred in every corner. If in doubt, name a specific accomplishment you undertook that moved the lot of the multitude to the promised land of brighter tomorrows. What's your plan beyond riding the tidal crest of mediocrity?

Would electing the right people make longstanding issues disappear? Or would not this fit what the great Milton Friedman said, "The way you solve things is by making it profitable for the wrong people to do the right thing."

Frankly, what would politicians (old and new) offer the multitude to spur economic growth? This brings the assertion by a student at recent AG's Cup competition that insisted on the dire need for vision and a set of fully thought out plans. Otherwise it's Plan A, casino, Plan B, casino; and, Plan C, casino!

Indeed, most of the people we elect to represent us are good, honorable folk who set off with nothing but the most genuine motives and desires to protect our interests. But time and again, once they reach "I Deni," something takes hold of them. Is it the thin air, power, lack of academic credentials and depth, inability to hold and follow their true north?

The next pit stop is all about leadership and vision, not followership and black and white television. I expect the voice of our young people to be more audible and proactive in our collective search for leadership with visions of what the NMI ought to be some 50 years from now.

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Moving to another state

Do people move from one state to another in search of warm weather? There must be a single most important reason for doing so. It isn't political but financial: move away from high taxes, heavy regulations to lower taxes and less-regulated states.

"They just go where opportunities are, and that usually means where there's less government." according to John Stossel of Fox News. He said a book Money Walks says Florida was the state that gained the most: "You're seeing a massive amount of people and their income coming in: $86 billion."

Said he: "Arizona and Texas also gained, which made me wonder if Americans just move to states where it's warm." "No," said Darcy Olsen, president of Arizona's Goldwater Institute. "Weather explains just 5 percent of the migration ... the Census Bureau asks, and they say, 'to find a job.'"

Stossel further stated, "People move where jobs are, and the states gaining the most—which also include North Carolina and Nevada—follow what he calls the magic formula: lower taxes and good labor policy, which means a business, being free to hire and fire the people you want. [In] the most successful states you see both—no income tax or low taxes coupled with right-to-work laws." He noted that capital doesn't flow to a hostile environment. No, it won't!

"States like [Texas, without a state income tax] gained $146 billion, whereas the reverse, the states with the highest among personal income-tax rates, lost over $120 billion," he related. So what's the point?

Local politicians need to buckle down and recalibrate taxes, fees, and regressive policies to give the CNMI a chance at economic recovery. The current system hasn't worked. Revenues have fallen significantly. It's time to retreat and recalibrate rebuilding the ruined bridges of economic growth

Mr. O runs out of juice!

Obama's a highly divisive figure confused over his failure to place a stampede on signature issues. It's May already and time compresses, leaving no room to figure out how to work with Congress.

See 2014 on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Old dogs, old tricks

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

Saipan isn't the only place under the U.S. flag with a messed up economy, and here, as elsewhere, many mid-career people are having to learn new things nowadays. Some are retooling for entirely new professions. Others are studying exotic and difficult foreign languages. And still others are trying to add credentials to their current lines of work, but feel like their learning skills have gotten rusty since their school days.

I have, unfortunately, seen people get intimidated by such undertakings, being told that they are "too old" to learn something. Let's defuse that little stink bomb, and consider some advantages that the more seasoned among us have.

That's right: advantages.

Perspective? Here's some: I used to put beans on the table by teaching people how to fly airplanes. I never saw that my older students (many of them retirees) were at a disadvantage. In fact, I think they usually did better than average, and I recall they had a much higher rate of completing their lessons and actually getting their licenses.

And that's a mighty unforgiving context we're talking about. If you fail a test in the classroom, you get an "F," but if you fail it in the cockpit, you get a headline. I can't think of a better index of learning ability, taken not as an abstract notion, but as an applied act with real consequences.

Moving to the more abstract realm, from time to time I catch glimpses of articles about studies that show the deleterious effects of aging on the brain. But I don't recall any such studies that also accounted for the virtuous effects of the better judgment and self-discipline that maturity often imparts.

I'm not ignoring physiology here, and we all know that there are older people who fail at things, just as there are younger people who fail at things.

Age-wise, I get caught in the middle. We all do.

My older friends think I'm a punk for listening to Twisted Sister and AC/DC at ear-bleed volumes, taken as clear indication of my degenerate ways.

Meanwhile, my younger relatives think I'm sort of medieval blacksmith for replacing the Ford's U-joints in my driveway. To them, anything that isn't an iPhone app resides in a mysterious world behind the veil, a magical place where "the man" fixes everything in some invisible, parallel universe called "reality."

See? Getting caught in the middle is unavoidable. So just ignore it, and focus on you want to do.

Now that we've got all that stuff cleared up, let's note some advantages that the old salts often have in the learning game.

One important advantage is the ability, and the gumption, to prioritize information. Most people who have been in professional ranks for a while understand that not all tasks, and not all data, are of equivalent consequence and, therefore, aren't deserving of equal attention.

Related wisdom holds that speed doesn't get you through a long voyage. Accurate navigation does. We've all seen examples of people who expend great bluster, smoke, and energy to do something, as they make a blur going 80 degrees off-course.

Had these wayward vessels exercised more self-restraint, they would have done the navigational brain work beforehand, the better to use their scarce assets (time, money, energy, attention, etc.) to maximum advantage.

So we've all known many "C" students who worked harder than "A" students, but working hard isn't the same thing as working smart.

Another advantage that comes with being seasoned in the work force is good old human relations. In professional life, learning to schmooze clients, prospects, and colleagues is an acquired skill. And it's a skill that can be used to great benefit in the learning realm, as you seek to cultivate the goodwill of experts who can help you out.

Which leads to the fact that seasoned wisdom knows how to quietly look around for genuine experts. By contrast, it's a rookie move to naively shop around for opinions and advice from the peanut gallery.

After all, the loudest voice in the room is never the expert, and the expert is never the loudest voice.

Of course, it is true that young fools grow into old fools, so mere age is no guarantee of having any sense. But that's not the pool we're concerned with, since it's usually not the old fools who are trying to learn things because they think they already know it all.

Overall, then, the saw about "old dogs and new tricks" strikes me as wrong. The age of the trick doesn't matter, but the learning does, and learning is the oldest skill in the book. Sure, the puppies will always get the attention, but sometimes it's better to be a wily old hound dog.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Accomplishments at DPS

Hafa adai and *tiroow*. Due to my immediate termination from the Department of Public Safety upon my return from procuring a rescue boat for the department, I was never given the opportunity to meet with DPS commanders and section OIC to thank them for their support while I was leading DPS as CNMI range master, deputy commissioner and acting commissioner. Therefore, I say thank you to all the police officers, fire fighters, and civilian employees for their hard work and support during my tenure at DPS.

I also would like to take this opportunity to share my accomplishments during my time with the department:

When I began with the department, I was told that I could not build the shooting range for DPS due to lack of funds. The department had no shooting range to conduct consistent training for the police officers. Because of my knowledge as a certified range master, I identified a location in San Juan, Marpi, and constructed a shooting range to cater to any caliber pistol/MP-5 submachine gun, M-16 rifle, and 12-gauge shotgun. I also set up an obstacle course for police tactical training. In building the range I saved the CNMI government thousands of dollars. Not only did this benefit our local law enforcement, but federal law enforcement as well. I upgraded the firearms training to meet U.S. law enforcement standards for the CNMI. Because there was no standard operating procedure, or SOP, for firearms training at DPS, I created one, which is still currently in use at DPS. I created a written exam for weapons safety handling and set the standard for weapons qualification training to include implementing of proficiency levels for firearms qualification for the entire department. This allowed all CNMI law enforcement to be uniform in tactical training and their qualification. I also created an SOP for the shooting gallery for inspection to comply with Public Law 8-5. I also assisted in making a reality Public Law 14-51, requiring mandatory firearms safety education classes for gun owners and gun purchasers. I taught both police academy to include correction officers to certify and qualify on methods of safe weapons handling and the basic fundamentals of marksmanship. I also repaired over 100 weapons to include from Tinian and Rota DPS that were unserviceable, saving the government thousands of dollars. Additionally, because I am a certified range master and certified factory armorer, DPS also saved several thousands more. As a certified chief drill instructor from the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, I passed on my knowledge and certified selected DPS police and fire fighters for future academy instructors. As a matter of fact, DPS Fire recently graduated cadets from the Fire Academy.

I also trained DPS Tactical Response Enforcement Team members in executing high-risk search/arrest warrants and providing protective service detail to VIP's and off-island dignitaries.

As the deputy commissioner and acting commissioner, I created the undercover drug task force. I coordinated law enforcement and made arrangements to train and certify DPS, Fish & Wildlife, and CPA Ports Police in the operation of jet skis during rescue operations. I also coordinated Saipan, Tinian, and Rota Police Boating Safety officers to join with the U.S. Coast Guard for day and night operation in boarding and inspecting any boat/vessel within the CNMI.

During my time as acting commissioner I tapped a federal grant under Homeland Security with over $600,000 in unspent funds since 2009. Because of this, I was able to upgrade the department's vehicles, which are now in compliance with U.S. standards. I also requested and received from Homeland Security five vehicles to be used for DPS frontline staff—one for the Koban, two to Patrol, one to transport weapons and ammunition, and one currently driven by the commissioner—all totaling $250,000.00.

I also created the Fuel Logistics Office. This office controls the fuel consumption at DPS as well as to track data and mileage for better accountability of the department's resources. As a result, DPS fuel consumption was down to half of the operation cost. Because of this office I first discovered fuel charge discrepancies billed to the government based on the actual contract agreement. This finding was reported to Department of Finance, which led Shell to offset DPS fuel charge against its billing.

To add to my other accomplishments, I effectuated the High Visibility Enforcement Program for day and night operations. I had the officers' vehicles parked along the roadside for deterrence and at the same time to save fuel and promote law enforcement exposure and to deter aggressive drivers. This Highway Safety Program will compensate DPS when enforced, giving DPS money for fuel.

I requested Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan for assistance through his office to help locate much-needed vehicles and uniforms for the department. As a result, DPS received five sport utility vehicles for DPS Patrol, and our police officers and fire fighters received their uniforms too.

I was able to justify my request through Region 9 Highway Safety for seven vehicles for DPS Traffic Section. These vehicles are now on island—five went to Saipan, with one each for Tinian and Rota. I also procured six traffic laser units, two DUI trailers for checkpoints, four motorcycles, five EMS ambulances (which will be arriving within 10 days—four for Saipan, one for Tinian), and a DPS fire rescue boat. Aside from the traffic/patrol vehicles, the rest are en route to the CNMI. The fire truck is still pending at Procurement & Supply for approval.

Through my efforts and assistance of the DPS Boating Safety commander, we managed to successfully acquire two jet skis, one for Tinian and one for Rota. I also approved the Recreational Boating Safety grant worth $ 450,000 that will fund the Boating Safety Office Bay House on Tinian, with groundbreaking to occur in the next several days. In support of Tinian DPS and as acting commissioner during my time, I immediately released one out of three Zodiac Rescue Boats to Tinian. Tinian DPS brought to my attention the fact that their Zodiac Boat was not operational; I acted immediately to ensure Tinian had a boat to conduct rescues.

I also brought the deficit within the DPS Saipan office from over $2 million down to $700,000 for fuel, operation, and overtime costs.

In closing, I want to inform Department of Public Safety officers, fire fighters, and civilian employees that in the short time as a leader in the department, I hope that my accomplishments have helped the agency and its employees, which was my intention from day one.

Ambrosio T. Ogumoro
Capital Hill, Saipan

ULTIMATE

From Page 10

tors or performers. Video images are from ordinary human beings who have plumbed the depths of their existence to face what ultimately is described in the language of awe and wonder, of life in ecstasy, destiny and mystery, and have enough courage to talk about it.

Presented in 12 stations (the Lenten practice of Stations of the Cross comes to mind, but it is best not to associate May's effort since the demythologizing needed in the RC tradition takes more effort before one can get to its kernel), we discovered the narratives to be painfully direct and joyfully unadorned.

The fact that some of the faces are familiar forcefully tugs at the heartstring but it is the general message and its specific parts that got us reminded of the global collegiality that we keep, not just with fellow wayfarers in the journey that officially ceased in the ritualized closure of the journey of the Order: Ecumenical, but also with the ongoing parade of prominent historical characters named in Kenneth Boulding's "invisible college," a dynamic of social pioneering present since the Neolithic period in Brian Stanfield's reckoning. The tears that flowed on Peter's death are both for the grief and joy of being part of a finite movement with a radically shaken foundation of human consciousness, and a program for sustaining the depth, height, and breath of its greatness.

May's Internal Mythos Journeys series shows a democratization of the profound secular contemplative practice that he and his collaborators are promoting, the DVD being just a beginning.

The DVD's narrator advised us not to take the series in one sitting. We didn't but we saw enough to know that we will be returning to the program again and again.

Can anything good come out of Indiana? Hell, yes!

2014

From Page 10

"The Government Accountability Office now projects that under the most realistic scenario, Obamacare will add $6.2 trillion to the primary deficit over the next 75 years. It's staggering figure when viewed against Mr. O's pledge, 'I will not sign a plan that adds one dime to our deficits either now or in the future,'" according to Charles Payne, assistant director of strategic communications, Heritage Foundation.

"Nancy Pelosi wasn't kidding when she said Congress would have to pass Obamacare 'to see what's in it.' That's because the bill gave federal agencies free rein to write regulations that would become the real-world version of the law and even through it passed in 2010, the regulations are still being written."

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

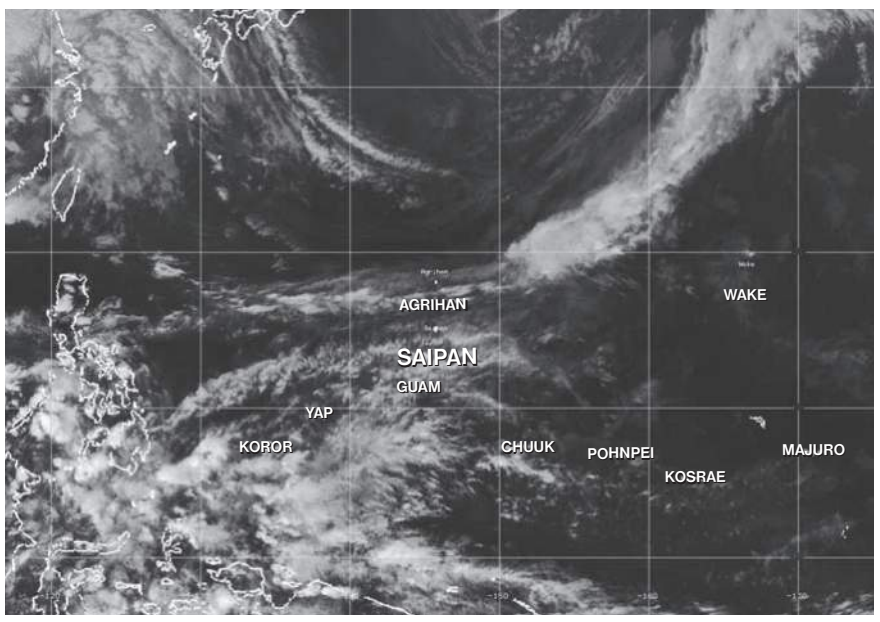
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲89	▼81
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲91	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼81
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼80
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼80
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲63	▼53
Beijing	Sunny	▲84	▼56
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲81	▼75
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼71
London	Showers	▲62	▼48
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼57
Manila	Thundershowers	▲92	▼83
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼53
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼73
New York	Thundershowers	▲67	▼55
Osaka	Showers	▲73	▼63
Paris	Showers	▲62	▼50
Pusan	Rain	▲67	▼56
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼60
Salem	Sunny	▲84	▼53
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼52
Seoul	Rain	▲62	▼50
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲80	▼64
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲79	▼61

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves southwestward from east of Minami Torishima at 25N160E to east of Alamagan at 18N147E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 16N. Showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring within 100 miles either side of the cold front and scattered showers are found along and up to 100 miles north of the shear line. A trade-wind disturbance is producing widespread cloudiness. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across Palau and Yap in the area bounded by EQ130E to 8N131E to south of Guam at 12N144E to 7N146E to EQ142E back to EQ130E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:57 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
8:02 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
3:15 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
9:59 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:50 AM	6:37 PM
Saturday	5:50 AM	6:37 PM
Sunday	5:49 AM	6:38 PM
Monday	5:49 AM	6:38 PM
Tuesday	5:49 AM	6:38 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:46 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	6:31 AM	7:40 PM
Sunday	7:18 AM	8:29 PM
Monday	8:06 AM	9:16 PM
Tuesday	8:55 AM	10:02 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 6, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	2:55am	6:35am	1
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)

SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:55am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:05pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:55am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN

SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:00am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Diamond Peel
Serenity Signature Massage
Body Scrub with Honey Body Polish
Hair Scalp Treatment

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Diamond Peel
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Hair Spa Treatment

PACKAGE D $75
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Diamond Peel
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Hair Spa Treatment

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Diamond Peel
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Mother's Day Special

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MOTHER'S DAY IS MAY 12

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We've just prepared some Mother's Day Special without spending too much!

GIFT PACKAGES
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FRESH FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS:
• Mother's Day Bouquet • Mother's Day Lucky Bamboo
• Fresh Flowers with Spring Collection
(Roses, Carnations, Lilies, Gerbera)

Energy launches residential recycling program

The CNMI Energy Division Office, in association with the Department of Public Works' Solid Waste Management Office, has launched its Residential Recycling Program for Saipan. Applications are available at Energy Division Office at the Springs Plaza along Chalan Pale Arnold Road on Gualo Rai.

Interested residential consumers are encouraged to visit the Energy Office to apply for and receive three recycling bins to promote recycling and conservation efforts in the CNMI.

The program is designed to educate the community about the importance of recycling to conserve available resources and contribute to the efforts of reducing the effects of global warming through funding opportunity made possible by the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The program also includes a School Incentive Program in which a participant would have the opportunity to select a school of their choice to compete in the program to receive the following prizes as follows:

Q1 PRIZES	ALUMINUM	PLASTIC BOTTLES	CORRUGATED CARDBOARDS	WHITE GOODS
1st place	$300	$300	$300	$300
2nd place	$200	$200	$200	$200
3rd place	$100	$100	$100	$100

Second quarter prizes will be doubled.

A school of choice selected by a residential consumer will be provided the opportunity to participate and compete in the incentive program to receive, on a quarterly basis, the following listed prizes for the most tonnage of qualified recyclable materials collected and recorded. Prizes received by winning schools will assist the schools in their efforts to educate students about the importance and need to recycle and conserve.

To receive recycling bins, individuals must submit a completed and signed application with the following information: a copy of valid CNMI/US identification with photo and a copy of a utilities billing with name and account number to verify installation address

Applications are available to interested individuals from Monday to Friday, except holidays, from 7:30am to 4:30pm at the Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant office at the Springs Plaza.

Residential Recycling Bins will be provided to residents on a first-come first-served basis or while supplies last. The program ends Sept. 30, 2013.

For additional inquiries and complete information on the terms and conditions of the program, contact the Department of Public Works, Division of Energy – Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant office at 664-4487/89/90 or visit the office. ***(Office of the Governor)***

Energy rebate program for Tinian residents

The CNMI Energy Division announced yesterday the opening of the Energy Star Rebate Program to provide Tinian residents the opportunity to purchase qualified energy-efficient Energy Star-rated appliances to replace inefficient appliances within their homes.

Rebates will be available for a limited time only so rebate vouchers will be issued on a first-come first-served basis or while rebate vouchers last.

Due to the limited number of rebate vouchers available, the CNMI Division of Energy, in partnership with participating retailer, will be hosting a "Two-day, In-store only" sales promotional event.

The program will make available four types of qualified energy-efficient Energy Star-rated appliances: refrigerators, washers, window-type and split-type air-conditioning units.

The rebate amounts are as follows:

- Refrigerators: $400
- Clothes Washers: $400
- Window-type A/C Units 5-8kBTU: $200
- Window-type A/C Units over 8k BTU: $250
- Split-type A/C Units 9-12k BTU: $400
- Split-type A/C Units over 12k BTU: $500

Applications will be available on May 17 and 18, from 9am to 4:30pm at the Pacific Home Appliance (Star Photo) in San Jose, Tinian. Staff from the CNMI Division of Energy Office will be available to assist interested individuals with applications. Only completed applications will be accepted and processed. Upon approval and issuance of rebate vouchers, recipients are required to redeem appliance rebate vouchers at the store location.

Interested individuals should bring the following documents to the store location: copy of Valid CNMI ID card with picture; copies of three latest previous utilities billings showing customer name and customer account number; and a completed and signed landlord/tenant certification form, if applicable, with a copy of the landlord's valid CNMI ID with picture and rental/lease agreement.

For additional information, call the CNMI Division of Energy Office at 664-4487/88/89/90 or fax at 664-4483.

Funding opportunity for this project was made possible by the U.S. Department of Energy through a grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. ***(Office of the Governor)***

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AVOID SICK PEOPLE & AVOID TOUCHING YOUR EYES, NOSE & MOUTH
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COVER YOUR COUGH OR SNEEZE
with a tissue or your sleeve NOT your Hands!
Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it and wash your hands.

HAVE AN EMERGENCY PLAN ready in case you get sick and keep a two weeks worth of emergency supplies, food, water and medicine at home.

FLU W.A.T.C.H.

This Flu W.A.T.C.H. message was brought to you by the CNMI Department of Public Health.
To learn more, visit http://.h1n1dph.gov.mp or call 234-8950.
CDC

Initiative seeks use of DPL income for land compensation

A proposed change to the NMI Constitution seeks to allow income from public lands to be used for land compensation. It also requires the Legislature's approval of the Department of Public Lands' budget for "accountability and checks and balances."

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) prefiled Tuesday House Legislative Initiative 18-6, amending Article 11 Section 5(g) of the NMI Constitution. It was introduced in yesterday's session.

If passed by the Legislature, HLI 18-6 will be placed on the ballot in the next regular general election.

The government has been taking private land for public purposes but has been unable to compensate landowners.

At present, the NMI Constitution does not allow income from public lands to be used to compensate landowners for the taking of their property.

Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas earlier told the Legislature that the government's outstanding and unpaid judgments and settlements is now at more than $27 million, excluding accruing interests, and a portion of this is unpaid land compensations.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider have yet to see this and other newly-pre-filed measures.

"Until such time that they have, the administration does not take any position at this time," he said. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CK Head Start notices

For Chalan Kanoa Head Start parents, please attend a free Parent Training by the American Red Cross on May 11, 2013, at the William S. Reyes Elementary School cafeteria, from 8am to 12pm. This training is for at least one parent of each family. Do not bring your children.

There will also be a free Parent Education Training for parents of children 0 to 5 years old on May 20 to May 31, 2013, starting at 6pm, at the WSR school cafeteria. Call Mona at 483-4398 for more information. ***(PR)***

Grants workshop on Tinian

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council will be conducting a workshop in Tinian on Tuesday, May 14. The workshop will focus on the council's Community Grants Program and will take place at the Tinian Junior/Senior High School Library at 5pm.

Since 1992, the Council has awarded competitive matching grants to the public through its Community Grants Program. Past Council funded projects have used a variety of formats including conferences, panel discussions, translation of documents, and teacher enrichment seminars. The workshop is free and open to all Tinian residents.

For more information, contact Eulalia Villagomez at 235-4785. ***(PR)***

MHS, SSHS, and KHS Class of '03 Meeting

The Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, and Kagman High School Alumni Class of 2003 is inviting all classmates to a mandatory meeting on May 15, 2013, at 6:30pm at Rayna Camacho's residence on Capitol Hill. On the agenda is the upcoming joint 10th year reunion of 2003 classmates to be held in July.

For more information and/or directions, call Caroline Camacho at 789-3730, Rayna Camacho t 483-7769, or Ricky Itibus at 483-7104. We started as one, divided into three, and now let's be reunited as a Class of 2003! ***(PR)***

Memorial Week proclamation signing

There will be a Memorial Week proclamation for Memorial Day on May 20, 2013, at 2pm, at the Office of the Governor's conference room.

On May 27, 2013, the CNMI will be remembering its fallen heroes at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi at 9am. All veterans, active and reserved military personnel, family members of departed veterans, and the general public are invited to come and join us for this proclamation signing. ***(PR)***

Health and safety trainings

The American Red Cross is scheduled to conduct Preparedness Health & Safety trainings on the following dates:

- May 15 at 6pm: Adult CPR/AED
- May 16 at 6pm: Pediatric CPR/AED
- May 25 at 8am: Adult CPR/AED

Classes are held at the chapter training room on Airport Road. Blended Learning courses involve online courses with in-person skills exam and require at least 48-hour preregistration. Course fees apply. For more information on the courses listed or other certification courses, contact the chapter office at 234-3459. ***(ARC)***

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2,500-plus join the Taste of the Marianas kickoff

MVA

Sixteen food vendors served up dinner and dessert on opening night of the 15th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 4, 2013, on Saipan. The event is held every Saturday during May Tourism Month beginning at 6pm at American Memorial Park.

An estimated 2,500 to 3,000 people turned out at American Memorial Park on Saipan on Saturday night, May 4, to kick off the 15th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden.

The event is held every Saturday evening in May as part of the monthlong celebration of Tourism Month in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Sales were also high on opening night, with over $37,000 in tokens being sold for food and drinks at the event.

"It was a phenomenal opening night," said Marianas Visitors Authority community projects manager Martin Duenas. "Attendance was high, sales were strong, even the weather cooperated. We're looking forward to another great celebration this Saturday, May 11, from 6pm to 10pm."

MVA, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the National Park Service jointly hosted the annual event.

Revelers joined two heats of the Hotdog Eating Competition, with the youth division going to Simei Charfauros finishing first, Harold Aranda landing second place, and Jandrei Naraja rounding out the winners in third place. In the adult division, Andrew Songsong nabbed first place, Pedro Tudela chomped his way to second place, and visiting Korean comedian Jun Ha Jung finished third.

Jang tweeted photos of his win, which were picked up by several media outlets in Korea, the second largest source country of visitors to the Northern Marianas.

Taste of the Marianas offers international cuisine at affordable prices by 16 hotels and restaurant vendors, non-stop live entertainment on the main stage, nightly contests on the secondary stage, and arts and crafts sales. ***(MVA)***

MVA

From left, Harold Aranda second place), Simei Chafauros (first place), and Jandrei Naraja (third place) rule the youth heat of the Hotdog Eating Competition at the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden on May 4, 2013, downing three hotdogs each in less than 3 minutes.

MVA

Winners of the adult heat of the Hotdog Eating Competition take a commemorative photo during the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 4, 2013, on Saipan. From left are Pedro Tudela (second place), Andrew Songsong (first place), and visiting Korean comedian Jang Ha Jung (third place).

'Gourmet Road' to feature Taste of the Marianas

Korean television program "Gourmet Road" will feature the 15th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden in an upcoming episode, following its visit to Saipan last week.

The television show provides restaurant and food information, and also features culinary cultures of Korea and foreign countries. The 60-minute show will air on Y-Star TV and is expected to bring $107,000 in advertising exposure value to the Northern Mariana Islands.

"Gourmet Road" is hosted by three celebrities: comedian Jun Ha Jung, announcer Ji Yoon Park, and Chang Min Lee, the lead-vocal of popular K-Pop boy band "2AM". Jung and Lee joined the Hotdog Eating Competition at last Saturday's Taste of the Marianas, with Jung winning third place.

This May 11's Taste of the Marianas will feature a Pie-eating Competition at 8pm on the rear stage, as well as entertainment by Okinawa Nenpo Group, Pua Hinano, Green Meadow School, Saipan Music & Dance, Marianas High Poksai INATUA, and New Band.

While on Saipan "Gourmet Road" also visited Tun Goru Snack Bar, Truong's, J's Restaurant, Naked Fish, Paju Gol, the Garapan Street Market, Kinpachi Restaurant, and other restaurants. They also went bottom-fishing, toured the northern Marpi area and Managaha, and sampled several barbecues. The group lodged at Hyatt Regency Saipan. ***(MVA)***

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HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Advanced Mother's Day greetings to the Sablan Angels—Auntie Do, Auntie Buff, and Auntie Encha! Greetings come from Leslie, Andy, Riley, and Mona.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advanced happy Mother's Day to the most amazing mommy/partner, Leslie Sablan! Thank you for everything. May the Lord continue guiding and protect you throughout your years! We love you very much! Andy, Riley and your honey.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advanced happy Mother's Day to my *kumaire*, Koleen Martin! Greetings come from the Magofna-Sablan family.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 1st birthday to our princess, Ava Carmina Benjamin Sablan! You are the light of our lives! With all our love, Mommy and Daddy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Jesus Songao Santos! May the Lord shower you with so much love and blessings on your special day. We wish you luck, happiness, good health, and many more birthdays to come. God bless you! We love you! Greetings come from your brothers, sister, and the ChungiBatitz family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Private 2 Antonio Litulumar Kaipat 2nd, who graduated as a combat engineer on May 3 at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri. Your family is so very proud of you! May God and your father, Antonio Litulumar Kaipat, keep watch over you from heaven.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advanced happy Mother's Day to Kuleta M. Taitano! Greetings come from your kids, your husband, and the Magofna-Maratita-Nakatsukasa-Taitano families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advanced happy Mother's Day to Maria P. Sablan! We love you, Mom! Greetings come from Dad, Babe, Andy, Riley, Mona, Jotori, Honey Girl, Enzo Boy, Lei Lei Girl, and Keoni.

Advanced happy Mother's Day to Lenny Hermosilla and Valerie Romolar! Greetings come from the Magofna-Sablan family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advanced happy Mother's Day to you sister, Linda Magofna! Greetings come from your Magofna family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

I wish you a lifetime of happiness. I love you.
it is you dear mother.
make us smile effortlessly,
us without limits and
us unconditionally, care for
world who can love
If there's one person in this

Happy Mother's Day!

Greetings from

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Sundays10:00 am to 5:00 pm
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Sundays10:00 am to 5:00 pm

eGift Certificates now for sale on delta.com

Delta Air Lines on May 3 started selling eGift Certificates on delta.com in amounts from $50 to $1,000. The certificates are available in $5 increments.

"Giving or receiving the gift of travel is now incredibly easy for our customers," said Bob Kupbens, vice president, Marketing and Digital Commerce. "We want to make it easy for customers to do business with Delta, which is why we continue to provide new and innovative ways to help customers plan their next trip and further improve their travel experience."

The process is simple and intuitive. Customers will be allowed to choose the information they would like to include on the eGift Certificate such as the sender's name, a personal message, the recipient's name, and an email address for delivery.

Recipients are able to redeem the certificates through delta.com, reservations agents or at airport locations by simply including the redemption code and certificate number from the eGift Certificate when they place their reservation.

Offering eGift Certificates is Delta's latest technology innovation. Delta completed the first phase of more than $140 million in digital customer investments earlier this year including an updated delta.com, self-service kiosks and the introduction of the Fly Delta app for iPad as well as updated iPhone app.

The investments in digital channels are part of an effort to deliver greater relevancy to customers based on their past interactions, new product offerings and customer information. Continued updates to digital tools will create a highly personalized online experience and improved focus on the delivery of existing critical features such as flight check-in options, which more than 90 percent of Delta customers utilize during their travel.

The certificates may only be used for the total purchase price of air transportation, including taxes, fees, and surcharges imposed on the air transportation. It may not be used for any additional fees (including baggage fees) or for any other products or services (including class upgrades, in-flight purchases, SkyMiles Cruises, cargo, hotel stays, or car rentals). ***(Delta)***

Aid agency sounds alarm over Pacific islands' drought

Aid agency the International Organization for Migration sounded the alarm Tuesday over a drought in the Marshall Islands, one of the world's remotest ocean communities, warning that thousands of people were at risk.

"Officials have found some families living on a gallon, or 3.8 litres, of water per day—barely half of the international standard for emergency water requirements, and often the precursor to serious health conditions," IOM spokesman Jumbe Omari Jumbe told reporters.

Lying in the northern Pacific Ocean, midway between Hawaii and Australia, the republic formed by more than 1,000 islands has faced unusually low rainfall since February.

The crisis has led the government to declare a state of emergency in the northern atolls, which are home to around 3,200 of the Marshall Islands' 52,558 people.

"Food security is a major concern, as crops, plants and trees have been damaged," Jumbe said.

Government aid ships have begun transporting U.S.-donated supplies, including water containers and hygiene kits, from IOM warehouses, he said.

"While this may not be a massive disaster in global terms, it is highly significant for this remote and fragile environment," Ashley Carl, the IOM's chief of mission for the Marshall Islands, said in a statement. ***(expatica.com)***

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Jury awards $670,250 to crash victim

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Superior Court jury yesterday found a man liable to pay $670,250 in damages to another man who dislocated his right shoulder during a vehicular accident in Susupe in 2011.

After less than four hours of deliberations, the six jurors unanimously declared that William Deleon Guerrero Villagomez suffered economic damages totaling $957,500.

The jurors assigned 10 percent of the fault for damages on Villagomez, 70 percent on defendant Michael T. Igros, and 20 percent on other persons.

This means that Igros will be liable to pay Villagomez a total of $670,250 out of the $957,500 in damages.

Attorney Victorino DLG. Torres, counsel for Villagomez, thanked the jurors for their hard work and the attention they gave throughout the trial that began on Monday.

"We are satisfied that Mr. Villagomez will be compensated. We hope that the defendant would respect the jurors' decision and compensate our client without further legal proceedings," Torres said.

Attorney Steven Pixley assisted Vince Seman, the lead counsel for Igros, during the trial.

According to the complaint, Igros ran a red light and his vehicle hit Villagomez's on the passenger side on Oct. 19, 2011, along Beach Road near Joeten Kiyu Library in Susupe.

Pixley said that given the fact that they had to concede liability from the beginning, he believes that Seman did an excellent job under the circumstances.

"We're actually pleased with the jury's verdict. It could have been much higher," he said.

Pixley said they will, however, file a motion to reduce the $600,000 non-economic damages as there is a law that caps non-economic damages at $300,000.

Pixley explained that they admitted liability and that the only issue for the jury was the damages.

He disclosed that after the accident, Villagomez figured in another car crash in the San Jose-Middle Road intersection on Nov. 21, 2011, in which he aggravated the injury on his arm.

Villagomez re-injured his shoulder again on March 2, 2012, Pixley said, after lifting a 40-gallon water bottle.

"Obviously the first accident was the most serious one and that's where the jury assigned 70 percent of the fault to Igros," he said.

The 20 percent was for the second accident and the 10 percent was for the third incident when Villagomez lifted the bottle.

House concurs with governor's FY 2014 budget

By a vote of 15-0, the House of Representatives concurred yesterday with Gov. Eloy S. Inos' proposed fiscal year 2014 budget. Adoption of this concurrent resolution will pave the way for the House, particularly its Ways and Means Committee, to work on a 2014 budget bill reflecting $123.4 million in projected resources available for appropriations.

House members concurred with the projected resources of $145.954 million for fiscal year 2014, as contained in the governor's budget transmittal of April 26, 2013.

Of this amount, $123.4 million is available for appropriation; the rest is for debt service and other obligations.

Fiscal year 2014 runs from Oct. 1, 2013, to Sept. 30, 2014.

Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), author of House Concurrent Resolution 18-1, said the Ways and Means Committee that he chairs will meet next week to decide on public hearings on certain agencies' budgets.

"Not all agencies will be called in about their budget. So far, the agencies that will be subject for budget hearings are [the Public School System], [Northern Marianas College] and [Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.]," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Sablan said his target is to have a 2014 budget bill ready by June and hopefully sent to the Senate middle of that month.

"I know that's an ambitious goal but there's no reason not to meet that if we all find the time to work on the budget," he added.

The governor's budget also remits more to the NMI Retirement Fund and features cost-cutting measures and improved efficiency by consolidating agencies and removing some positions.

From the original projection of $114 million, the proposed budget is now at $123.4 million, due to forecasted increases in business gross revenue tax and hotel occupancy tax, as a result of steadily improving tourism arrivals. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

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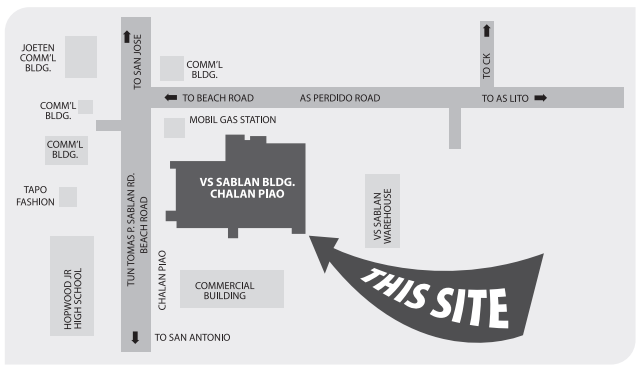

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Business

Feds take a closer look at fake mobile bill charges

WASHINGTON (AP)—When a mysterious, unauthorized fee appears on your cellphone bill, it's called "cramming" and consumer advocates and regulators worry it's emerging as a significant problem as people increasingly ditch their landlines for wireless phones.

The cramming fee is bogus and usually small, under $10 a month. It might be listed on your bill as a "premium service" or other generic-sounding charge. Cramming had long been a problem with traditional landline phones, but after pressure from lawmakers, regulators and others, some of the largest landline carriers last year said they would no longer allow third-party billing—where an outside company offers and then charges the landline customer for services like third-party email, faxing, and voicemail.

Now, the focus of concern is shifting to wireless phones and cramming.

"As people continue to use mobile phones as a payment option, this problem is likely to grow," says Malini Mithal, an assistant director in the financial practices division at the Federal Trade Commission. "It's just a new opportunity for fraudsters."

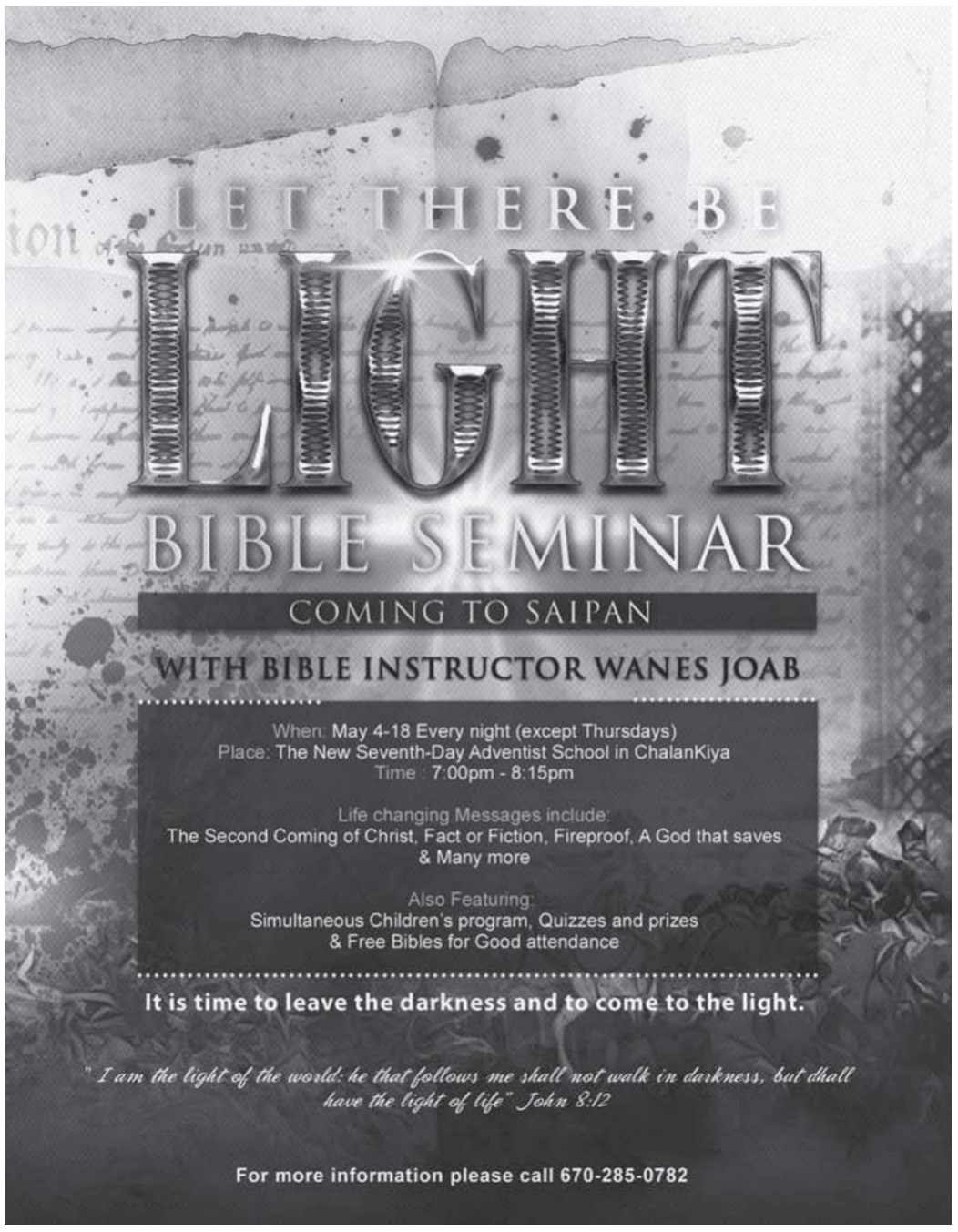
The commission held a daylong conference on the issue Wednesday with consumer advocates, wireless carrier representatives, and state and federal officials. The meeting came just weeks after the FTC lodged its first mobile cramming case, accusing a Georgia-based company, Wise Media, of bilking consumers out of millions of dollars for text messages with horoscopes, flirting tips and other information.

According to the agency, consumers across the country were signed up randomly for text services from Wise Media and charged $9.99 a month on their mobile bills, without their knowledge or permission. The text messages suggested people had subscribed to the service, but many consumers dismissed the texts as spam. People who responded and said they didn't want the service were charged anyway, the agency said.

The wireless industry says the Wise Media case isn't the norm and mobile carriers are closely vetting third-party vendors who offer services for ringtones and other products and then have charges placed on consumers' mobile bills.

"We have not seen a spike or trend in complaints to the agencies that reflects that this is a growing problem," said Michael Altschul, senior vice president and general counsel at CTIA-The Wireless Association, the main trade group for cellphone companies.

Altschul said the mobile carriers not only monitor who is placing charges on their bills, they also require consumers to verify any premium messaging services with a second text to confirm the charge is allowed. Even so, the commission and others are pressing wireless carriers to offer consumers the option to block third-party billing as a way to prevent cramming charges.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High hospital bills go public, but will it help?

WASHINGTON (AP)—For the first time, the government is publicly revealing how much hospitals charge, and the differences are astounding: Some bill tens of thousands of dollars more than others for the same treatment, even within the same city.

Why does a joint replacement cost 40 times as much at one hospital as at another across the country? It's a mystery, federal health officials say.

"It doesn't make sense," Jonathan Blum, Medicare deputy administrator, said Wednesday. The higher charges don't reflect better care, he said.

And the amounts are too huge to be explained by obvious differences among hospitals, such as a more expensive regional economy, older or sicker patients, or the extra costs of running a teaching hospital, he said.

The average charges for joint replacement range from about $5,300 at an Ada, Okla., hospital to $223,000 in Monterey Park, Calif., the Department of Health and Human Services said. That doesn't include doctors' fees.

Hospitals within the same city also vary greatly. At Beth Israel Medical Center in New York, the average charge to treat a blood clot in a lung is $51,580. Down the street at NYU Hospitals Center, the charge for the same care would be $29,869.

At the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, the list price is $16,861.

That isn't necessarily what you pay.

Medicare pays hospitals on its own fee schedule that isn't based on the listed charges, Blum said. And insurance companies routinely negotiate discount rates with the hospitals.

But patients who are uninsured can be billed the full amount. And some with private insurance may find their share of the bill is inflated as a result of a hospital's higher charges, officials said.

Blum said the Obama administration hopes that releasing the information, at the website http://www.cms.gov , will help lead to answers to the riddle of hospital pricing—and pressure some hospitals to lower their charges.

The database also will help consumers shop around, he said.

The variations shouldn't be a surprise, since hospitals might violate antitrust regulations if they shared "proposed or negotiated rates" with each other, said Rich Umbdenstock, president of the American Hospital Association. Forty states do require or encourage hospitals to make some payment information publicly available, he said.

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Nation

Cleveland man charged with 3 women's kidnap, rape

CLEVELAND (AP)—A man suspected of keeping three women captive inside his decrepit house for a decade was charged Wednesday with kidnapping and rape, accused of holding them under conditions so oppressive they were allowed outside for only a few moments in disguise and never saw a chance to escape until this week.

Investigators said the women apparently were bound with ropes and chains, and a city councilman briefed on the case said they were subjected to prolonged sexual and psychological abuse and suffered miscarriages.

Castro

Ariel Castro, a 52-year-old former school bus driver, was charged with four counts of kidnapping—covering the captives and the daughter born to one of them—and three counts of rape, against all three women.

The women, now in their 20s and 30s, vanished separately between 2002 and 2004. At the time, they were 14, 16 and 20 years old.

Prosecutors brought no charges against Castro's two brothers, who were arrested along with him on Monday, saying there was no evidence they had any part in the crime.

Castro owns the run-down home where the women were rescued on Monday after one of them, Amanda Berry, broke through a screen door to freedom while he was away. The discovery electrified Cleveland, where many people had come to believe the missing young women were dead.

Police Deputy Chief Ed Tomba said it was the only opportunity they ever had to escape.

"Something must have clicked, and she saw an opportunity and she took that opportunity," he said.

Tomba said the women could remember being outside only twice during their time in captivity.

"We were told they left the house and went into the garage in disguise," he said.

The women were not kept in the same room but knew about one another, he said.

He also said a paternity test on Castro was being done to establish who fathered Berry's 6-year-old daughter.

At a news conference, authorities would not discuss the circumstances of the women's kidnappings or give further details about their ordeals. But City Councilman Brian Cummins said: "We know that the victims have confirmed miscarriages, but with who, how many and what conditions we don't know."

"It sounds pretty gruesome," he added.

Castro was in custody Wednesday and couldn't be reached for comment. A brother-in-law has said the family was shocked after hearing about the women at the home.

Neighbors said that over the years, Castro took part in the search for one of the women, Gina DeJesus, helped pass out fliers, performed music at a fundraiser for her and attended a candlelight vigil, at which he comforted her mother.

None of the women said anything that indicated Castro's brothers, Pedro Castro, 54, and Onil Castro, 50, were involved, Tomba said.

"Ariel kept everyone at a distance," he said.

A court hearing for Ariel Castro was set for Thursday morning.

The deputy chief also said there was no evidence to indicate any of the women had been outside without clothes, despite claims from a neighbor who said a naked woman was seen crawling around the backyard.

Cleveland police have disputed claims by neighbors that officers had been called to the house before for suspicious circumstances. They said nothing in their records supports that.

Earlier Wednesday, Berry, 27, and DeJesus, who is in her early 20s, were welcomed home by jubilant crowds of loved ones and neighbors with balloons and banners. Family members protectively took them inside, past hundreds of reporters and onlookers.

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Group of conservatives backs action on immigration

WASHINGTON (AP)—More than two dozen conservative leaders have signed on to a statement supporting action to overhaul the nation's immigration laws and calling legislation pending in the Senate an "important starting point."

In a statement being released Thursday, the officials say: "Simply opposing immigration reform should not be the conservative response to this problem. We believe conservatives should be leading the way on this issue by supporting legislation that upholds conservative principles."

Signers include Fred Malek, chairman of the American Action Forum; Ralph Reed, chairman of the Faith and Freedom Coalition; Paul Wolfowitz, a scholar at the American Enterprise Institute; Mat Staver, president and founder of Liberty Counsel; and Lawson Bader, president of the Competitive Enterprise Institute.

The statement was organized by Al Cardenas, chairman of the American Conservative Union.

"Conservatives are ready to support immigration reform, so long as it is pro-economic growth, strengthens families, fosters assimilation and prevents another wave of illegal immigration from happening again," the statement says.

Many of those signing the declaration took part in a meeting Tuesday with Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., an author of the immigration bill who's trying to sell it to conservatives. Rubio solicited their support in part by assuring them that the bill could change as it moved forward, and in their statement the officials say they don't expect the legislation to pass as-is.

Not all of those who attended the meeting with Rubio signed on to the statement of support. Several tea party-affiliated officials were in the meeting but not on the statement.

Republicans are split on the immigration issue, with many in leadership roles or with ties to the business community coming out in favor of an overhaul, while others more driven by ideology or connected to the grass roots remain opposed.

The Senate Judiciary Committee begins considering amendments to the Senate bill on Thursday. The legislation would dramatically remake the nation's immigration laws, strengthening the border, creating new worker programs and enforcement, and providing a path to citizenship for 11 million already here illegally.

AP

In this image made from pool video provided by APTN, Jodi Arias reacts during the reading of the verdict in at Maricopa County Superior Court in Phoenix, Wednesday, May 8, 2013.

Jodi Arias says she prefers death penalty

PHOENIX (AP)—Jodi Arias spent 18 days on the stand sharing intimate, emotional and oftentimes X-rated details of her life before a rapt television and online audience. She had hoped it all might convince a jury that she killed her one-time boyfriend in self-defense.

But the eight men and four women on the panel didn't buy it, convicting Arias of first-degree murder after only about 15 hours of deliberations. Jurors will return to court Thursday to begin the next phase of the trial that could set the stage for Arias receiving a death sentence.

It's a punishment that Arias herself says she wants, telling a TV station minutes after her conviction that she would "prefer to die sooner than later."

"Longevity runs in my family, and I don't want to spend the rest of my natural life in one place," a tearful Arias told Fox affiliate KSAZ. "I believe death is the ultimate freedom and I'd rather have my freedom as soon as I can get it."

The case elevated the unknown waitress and aspiring photographer to a household name, with a real-life story of love, betrayal and murder far more alluring than any made-for-TV movie. The crime itself was enough to grab headlines: Arias, a 32-year-old high school dropout, shot Travis Alexander in the forehead, stabbed him nearly 30 times and slit his throat from ear to ear, leaving the motivational speaker and businessman nearly decapitated.

She claimed he attacked her and she fought for her life. Prosecutors said she killed out of jealous rage after Alexander wanted to end their affair and planned to take a trip to Mexico with another woman.

Arias' four-month trial quickly became a media sensation—ratings gold for cable networks that could broadcast from inside the courtroom and feed an insatiable public appetite for true-crime drama delivered live and up-close. It was, for many, the horrible train wreck they just couldn't turn away from, even though they know they should.

Arias fought back tears as the verdict was announced Wednesday in the hushed, packed courtroom, while Alexander's family members wept and hugged each other. They wore blue ribbons and wristbands with the words "Justice For Travis." The family thanked prosecutor Juan Martinez and a key witness and said it appreciated the outpouring of support from the public.

Outside, a huge crowd that had gathered on the courthouse steps screamed, whistled and cheered the news in a case that has attracted fans from across the country who traveled to Phoenix to be close to the proceedings.

Alexander's friend Chris Hughes said he was happy with the verdict, pointing out a bold proclamation that Arias made in one of her jailhouse interviews that she wouldn't be found guilty.

"She said, `No jury would convict me. Mark my words.' This jury convicted her," Hughes said. "Luckily we had 12 smart jurors. They nailed it."

When asked about Alexander's family, Arias told the station (http://bit.ly/15qG7aP), "I just hope that now that a verdict has been rendered, that they'll be able to find peace."

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office said no more media interviews with Arias would be granted. She has been placed on suicide watch.

Testimony in Arias' trial began in early January. The trial quickly snowballed into a made-for-the-tabloids drama, garnering daily coverage from cable news networks and spawning a virtual cottage industry for talk shows, legal experts and even Arias, who used her notoriety to sell artwork she made in jail.

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Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden

This highly anticipated weekly celebration will be held every Saturday in May at American Memorial Park from 6-10 p.m. The event will feature delicious local and international cuisine sold by 16 hotel and local restaurants. Enjoy the talent of local and international performers with live entertainment all evening. The event will feature nightly competitions, as well as trivia questions aimed at promoting tourism awareness.

"My Marianas" Community Outreach Presentation

Get up-to-date on the latest industry trends and upcoming tourism events during this picturesque slideshow on Saturday evenings at the Taste of the Marianas. Tourism Month informational packages will also be available on-site.

On-the-Street Interviews

MVA turns the spotlight on you as random community members are given an opportunity to share their views on various tourism topics in the Tourism Tuesday feature of the Saipan Tribune.

Radio Tourism Trivia

Call in with the correct answer for your chance to win tokens for the Taste of the Marianas and Tourism Month T-shirts. "Did You Know?" and "Fun Facts about Tourism in the Northern Marianas" will be aired regularly throughout the month on Power 99 (99.5 FM), KZMI (103.9 FM) and KKMP (1140 AM and 92.1 FM).

Saturday, May 11, 2013

6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Okinawa Nenpo Group
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Pua Hinano
7:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Green Meadow School
8:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Saipan Music & Dance
8:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	MHS Poksai INATUA
9:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	New Band

Food Concessionaires

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2. Hyatt Regency Hotel Saipan
3. Pacific Islands Club
4. Canton Restaurant
5. Furusato Restaurant
6. Sierra Pearl Shakes
7. Capricciosa/Tony Roma's
8. D'Elegance Café
9. Herman's Modern Bakery
10. Hula Girl/3's
11. Thai House Restaurant
12. Poon's Restaurant
13. Tropical Chill
14. Coral Ocean Point Resort
15. Mariana Resort & Spa
16. Saipan World Resort

Beer Garden Vendors

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- Marianas Pacific Distributors Inc.
- Northern Marianas Bartender Association

Pie Eating Competition

Saturday, May 11, 2013
8:00 p.m.

For more information, please contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Headquarters at telephone numbers 1 (670) 664-3200/01 or visit the website at www.mymarianas.com

Saipan Tinian Rota

Asia

Bangladesh garment disaster death toll nears 900

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—The death toll from the collapse of a building housing five garment factories has climbed to nearly 900, officials said Thursday, as authorities continue to search for more bodies two weeks after the worst garment manufacturing disaster in the world.

Authorities had recovered 892 bodies from the rubble as of Thursday morning, according to police officials overseeing the recovery of victims from the eight-story Rana Plaza building, located in a suburb of Dhaka, Bangladesh's capital.

Dozens of bodies recovered Wednesday were so decomposed they were being sent to a lab for DNA identification, police said.

Following protests, authorities also began disbursing salaries and other benefits to survivors of the collapse.

Also Wednesday, the European Union's delegation to Bangladesh urged the government to "act immediately" to improve working conditions. Authorities said the government has closed 18 garment factories in recent days for failing to meet work and safety standards.

There is no clear indication of how many bodies still remain trapped in the debris because the exact number of people inside the building at the time of the April 24 collapse is unknown. More than 2,500 people were rescued alive.

The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association earlier said 3,122 workers were employed at the five factories housed in the building, but it was not clear how many were there during the packed morning shift when it collapsed. Several stores and a bank were also in the building.

Maj. Gen. Chowdhury Hasan Suhrawardy, a top military official in the area, said the operation to recover bodies from the tangle of wreckage could continue for two to three more days before they would ask the local administration to take care of the site.

Suhrawardy said they had to send 36 decomposing bodies to Dhaka Medical College Hospital to collect DNA samples because they were beyond identification. Authorities expected to send more bodies for testing in the coming days, with temperatures in the high 80s Fahrenheit (low 30s Celsius) and rain pouring down.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Indonesia anti-terror squad kills 7 militants

BANDUNG, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia's elite anti-terrorism unit went on a busy 24-hour spree to root out suspected Islamic militants, killing seven and arresting six others in three separate operations that may have links to a foiled plot to bomb the Myanmar Embassy. In the latest raid, police shot and killed three suspected militants early Thursday after an all-night standoff at a house in the Central Java town of Kebumen. Four others were arrested, said National Police spokesman Brig. Gen. Boy Rafli Amar. He said the three dead suspects refused to surrender and resisted by firing guns and lobbing homemade bombs at security forces. A similar showdown occurred hours earlier in the West Java village of Cigondewah, where three suspected terrorists were fatally shot after holing up for hours inside a house, said National Police chief Gen. Timur Pradopo. They also engaged in a shootout and hurled bombs, but no officers were hurt in either incident.

Bus plunges into river, kills 38 in India

NEW DELHI (AP)—An official says a crowded bus plunged into a river and killed at least 38 people in a mountainous region in northern India. Sharab Negi, a district administrator, says 23 injured people, two of them in serious condition, have been rescued and taken to hospital. The accident occurred near Kullu, a hill resort in Himachal Pradesh state, 340 miles (540 kilometers) north of New Delhi. Rescuers found 38 bodies. Three people were feared to have been swept away by the water's strong current. The accident's cause was not immediately known. The bus fell nearly 150 feet (60 meters) deep into the river, Negi said.

8 dead in Bangladesh garment fire

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—A fire broke out in an 11-story building housing a garment factory and apartments in Bangladesh's capital, killing at least eight people, officials said Thursday.

The fire started Wednesday night, not long after the up to 300 workers at the Tung Hai Sweater Ltd. factory went home for the day, fire official Nazrul Islam said. It burned parts of the first and second floors, which housed the factory, and parts of the third, which housed apartments.

By early Thursday, firefighters had found eight people dead, Islam said. It was not immediately clear how many of the dead were tenants of the building.

The fire comes just two weeks after a factory building housing garment factories collapsed in Bangladesh, killing at least 892 people and again raising concerns about safety measures in the country's $20 billion garment industry. A fire at a garment factory in November killed 112 people.

Bhajan Kumar Sarkar, another fire official, said the managing director of the factory that burned Wednesday night, Mahbubur Rahman, and a police official were among the dead. All the dead had been found in the stairwell, he said.

Sarkar said they took more than three hours to take the blaze under control.

Annuncio - Arongorong

ANNOUNCEMENT

YOUR COMMENTS ARE MOST WELCOME:

VR FY - 2014 State Plan Goals

Goal 1. Deliver quality and timely services to applicants and consumers.

Goal 2. Serve as an advocate for individuals with disabilities.

Goal 3. Continue to work closely with the Workforce Investment Board to maintain and improve the best features of our workforce development system and to initiate efforts to integrate services for consumers.

Goal 4. Facilitate and ensure the seamless transition of students with disabilities to employment or continued education.

Goal 5. Maintain a comprehensive system of personnel development to ensure adequate qualified rehabilitation personnel.

Goal 6. Update of Policies and Procedures.

Margarita R. Olopai-Taitano
OVR Director

Isidro K. Seman
SRC Chairperson

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) in partnership with the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC), will be conducting statewide public forums for FY 2014 State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services and for the State Plan for Independent Living. YOU are ALL invited and encouraged to please participate in the scheduled public forums. The forums will provide opportunities for public comments on how well services are met and what need to be strengthened in our State Plans. Let us know how best the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation shall and should serve people with disabilities residing in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. What barriers exist that currently prevent our people with disabilities from getting or keeping a job? More importantly, recommend solutions to those barriers. Overall, how can OVR and our local communities work together to prepare, secure, and maintain employment and promote independence for and among eligible people with disabilities?

Community Forum on FY 2014 VR State Plan and State Plan for Independent Living

ROTA	TINIAN
May 15, 2013	**May 13, 2013**
Rota Mayor's Conference Room	Tinian Mayor's Conference Room
Time: 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm	**Time: 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm**

YOUR COMMENTS ARE MOST WELCOME:

FY - 2014 State Plan for Independent Living Goals

Goal 1. Increase the community's level of awareness of the independent living movement and individual and systems advocacy.

Goal 2. Enhance and expand the four core IL services (Information & Referral, IL skills training, Peer counseling, and systems advocacy); and transportation services in a manner that will maximize benefits to the greatest number of individuals with significant disabilities.

Goal 3. Serve as an advocate for individuals with disabilities.

Margarita R. Olopai-Taitano
OVR Director

Steve Dutro
SILC Chairperson

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION

If you require reasonable accommodation (e.g., large print, sign language interpreter) to participate in the public forums, please contact the OVR Council Liaison Elvira Seman at least 2 days before the scheduled forums. Copies of the plans can be accessed at the OVR website or obtain copies at the OVR Main Office at Navy Hill Bldg. N-2.

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
TEL: 322-6537/8 TTY: 322-6449 FAX: 322-6536
PO Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950
Email: nmidir@ovrgov.net
Website: www.ovrgov.net

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-020

DESIGN-BUILD RENOVATION OF CUC WAREHOUSE OFFICE AND STORAGE FACILITY

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Design-Build Renovation of CUC Warehouse Office and Storage Facility of the Commonwealth Utilities, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The selected A&E and Construction firm shall perform design and construction services for the renovation of the CUC Warehouse in Lower Base, Saipan. The firm must have experience on past design-build projects particularly on the island of Saipan.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **180 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **May 9, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-13-020, Design-Build Renovation of CUC Warehouse Office and Storage Facility, Saipan"*, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 28, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Statements of Qualifications will be evaluated, pre-qualified and selected based on the following criteria:

1. Familiarity and understanding of the CUC Warehouse staff daily activities
2. Qualifications and Experience of the A&E and the Contractor
   - o Proposed Methodology and Project Approach with Milestone Schedule
   - o Proposed Staffing and Experience
   - o List and Performance Recommendation on similar contracts, including the timeliness of the firms in meeting contract deadlines
   - o Present Workload and Availability

Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This Request for Proposal and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations ss 50-50-301 & 305, Procurement of Construction and Architect-Engineering Services.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 13, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - manny.sablan@cucgov.org. with a copy to John Mafnas, CUC Warehouse Manager, via email john.mafnas@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so shall be in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
This ad is paid for by NMHC funds.

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the agency authorized to allocate Low Incoming Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) in the CNMI. The United States 1986 Tax Reform Act created the federal low-income housing tax credit program under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code (Code) to assist with the development of low-income rental housing by providing qualified owners with credit to offset their federal tax obligations. The LIHTC is available to owners/developers of qualifying buildings and projects that meet certain low-income occupancy and rent restrictions.

Section 42 of the Code provides that the CNMI prepare a Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) to determine housing priorities and to give preference to projects serving the lowest income tenants and projects obligated to serve qualified tenants for the longest periods. The QAP must incorporate selection criteria, which includes project location, housing need characteristics, sponsor characteristics, tenant populations with special needs, and public housing waiting lists.

NMHC has developed a QAP and is available at NMHC's office. The QAP describes the basis that NMHC will use to allocate LIHTCs. NMHC may allocate **$2,590,000.00** in LIHTCs for the 2013 program year; in addition, NMHC has **$2,562,097** under the State's Unused Housing Credit Ceiling Carryover Allocation.

Application for LIHTCs

Owners/Developers wishing to apply for the LIHTCs should obtain and complete a LIHTC Application. The LIHTC Application may be obtained from NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950 or through our website at www.nmhc.gov.mp.

Owners/Developers must file the completed LIHTC Application along with the **$1,000.00 Application Fee** in NMHC's Office by the Application Deadline of **4:30 pm, August 30, 2013**. NMHC staff will review the application and will notify the Owner/Developer of any deficiencies by 15 days time or **September 16, 2013**. The owner/developer will be given 14 days to correct any deficiencies. Any corrections or supplemental information requested by NMHC must be received by **September 30, 2013**. The projects will be scored and recommendations made to the NMHC Board of Directors for approval at its **October 2013** Board Meeting.

Notification of Awards

NMHC will notify Owners/Developers of the projects receiving LIHTCs thirty (30) days following the October 2013 Board of Directors meeting. The reservation letter must be signed and returned to NMHC by no later than thirty (30) days from the date of notification.

For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities or persons requiring interpreters upon prior notification. Should you require such arrangements, please contact Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman at telephone numbers 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

World

7 dead, 2 missing after ship crashes in Genoa

ROME (AP)—Italian prosecutors placed the captain of the Jolly Nero cargo ship under investigation Wednesday for alleged manslaughter after his vessel slammed into the dock at Genoa's busy port and toppled the control tower into the harbor, killing at least seven people.

As rescue teams in diving suits searched for two other missing people, officials began piecing together how the 40,000-ton container ship could have sideswiped the port's control tower when weather and sea conditions were "perfect" on Tuesday night. The focus was on whether human error or a technical malfunction was to blame.

The crash occurred around 11 p.m. as the Jolly Nero was backing out of Genoa's port accompanied by two tugboats and with a harbor pilot on its bridge. At the same time, a shift change was taking place among employees at the control tower, meaning more people were in the building than usual.

"This event is unbelievable because we had the best weather navigation conditions," said Luigi Merlo, president of Genoa's port authority.

AP

Rescue operations take place by the wreckage of a control tower that toppled into the water after a cargo ship crashed into it Tuesday night during a shift change, at Genoa's port, northern Italy, Wednesday, May 8, 2013.

Transport Minister Maurizio Lupi told Parliament that given the "perfect" weather conditions, possible causes of the crash could include an engine malfunction or problems with the cables between the container ship and the tugs guiding it. He said investigators—both criminal and from his own ministry—were also looking into possible mistakes with the maneuver itself or with the speed in which the ship backed out of its berth and turned around to leave the port.

The Jolly Nero's captain, Roberto Paoloni, and the harbor pilot on board were placed under investigation for alleged manslaughter, Genoa prosecutor Michele di Lecce told reporters. He said other accusations were possible.

WORLD BRIEFS

Syria blames Internet outage on technical problem

BEIRUT (AP)—A problem with a fiber optics cable was responsible for an Internet outage that cut off civil war-ravaged Syria from the rest of the world for nearly 20 hours, state media said Wednesday. Internet service stopped abruptly Tuesday evening, prompting speculation that the regime had pulled the plug, possibly as a cover for military action. However, no large-scale military offensives were reported Wednesday and the opposition did not accuse the regime of sabotage. In the past, the regime halted Internet service in selected areas during government offensives to disrupt communication among rebel fighters. The last nationwide outage, for two days in November, coincided with a major military operation near the capital, Damascus, and its international airport. A U.S.-based Web watcher said the problem would have to occur somewhere inside Syria for the entire country to be affected, although it was impossible to tell from a distance exactly what happened.

Attack kills at least 20 Nigeria police officers

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—An ethnic militia killed at least 20 police officers who launched a raid to try and arrest them in central Nigeria, a police commissioner said Wednesday. The attack in Alakio, a village in Nasarawa state, saw the officers ambushed Tuesday when they tried to stop the gang that was forcing locals to take a blood oath, police commissioner Abayomi Akermale said. Nigeria, a nation of more than 160 million people, has some 250 ethnicities. Such ethnic militias can be major presences in communities, exacting taxes and controlling areas in some places. Akermale said the death toll in the attack could be higher, as emergency officials and police officers only reached the area on Wednesday. The commissioner declined to offer any other specific details about the attack, other than to say those responsible were not Islamic extremists.

Stephen Hawking backs boycott of Israeli academics

LONDON (AP)—British physicist Stephen Hawking has dropped plans to attend a major international conference in Israel in June, citing his belief that he should respect a Palestinian call to boycott contacts with Israeli academics. The University of Cambridge released a statement Wednesday indicating that Hawking had told the Israelis last week that he would not be attending "based on advice from Palestinian academics that he should respect the boycott." University officials said earlier in the day they had "previously understood" that Hawking's decision was based solely on health concerns—he is 71 and has severe disabilities—but had now been told otherwise by Hawking's office. The decision means that one of the world's most famous scientists has joined a boycott organized to protest Israel's treatment of Palestinians.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: IFB13-CHCC-108

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JUNE 03, 2013 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) PORTABLE ULTRASOUND MACHINE FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO **MR. WARREN P. VILLAGOMEZ** HOSPITAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DIRECTOR AT (670) 236-8762, OR FAX TO (670) 236-8769 **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, MAY 22, 2013**.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **ESTHER L. MUNA**
INTERIM, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER-CHCC

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-DLNR/DFW-112

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 29, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"DESIGN AND INSTALLATION OF SIGNS FOR THE SAIPAN UPLAND MITIGATION BANK (SUMBA) PROJECT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PARTS, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: IFB13-CHCC-113

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JUNE 03, 2013 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF EIGHT (8) AED PROFESSIONAL UNITS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO **MR. WARREN P. VILLAGOMEZ** HOSPITAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DIRECTOR AT (670) 236-8762, OR FAX TO (670) 236-8769 **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, MAY 22, 2013**.

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/S/ **ESTHER L. MUNA**
INTERIM, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER-CHCC

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Board of Parole
P.o. Box 502641, Saipan, MP 96950-2641
TEL. NOS.: (670) 664-3300 • 3302 FAX (670) 664-3310
E-mail: govbop@pticom.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Executive Meeting

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992". Notice is hereby given that a **Executive Meeting** is scheduled for **May 15, 2013, (Wednesday)** beginning at **9:00 A.M.**, at the **Department of Corrections Briefing/Training Room, Susupe**, Saipan.

The following items are included in the agenda:

I. **Preliminary Matters**
  A) Call to order
  B) Roll Call
  C) Presence of Quorum
II. **Consent Items**
  A) Review/Adoption of Agenda
  B) Adoption of Executive Meeting Minutes – December 13, 2012
III. **New Business**
  A) Preliminary Discussion to revisit the Board's Rules and Regulations
IV. **Old Business**
  A) Board Policy on the Conduct of Executive Meeting and Parole Hearings
  B) Commonwealth Constitution: Article III
  Re: Section 9: Executive Functions
  (c) Reprieves, Commutations and Pardons
  C) Board's Drug Testing Policy
V. **Miscellaneous**
  A) Other Matters
VI. **Adjournment**

If you have any question, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ **Ramon B. Camacho**
Chairman

Date: 04/18/13

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Board of Parole
P.o. Box 502641, Saipan, MP 96950-2641
TEL. NOS.: (670) 664-3300 • 3302 FAX (670) 664-3310
E-mail: govbop@pticom.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Parole Hearing

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992". Notice is hereby given that a **Parole Hearing** is scheduled for **May 14, 2013, (Tuesday)** beginning at **9:00 A.M., and if need be to continue on May 15, 2013, at 8:30 A.M.** at the **Vicente Taman Seman Building, Department of Corrections, Briefing/Training Room**, Susupe, Saipan.

The following items are included in the agenda:

I. **Preliminary Matters**
  1. Call to Order
  2. Roll Call
  3. Presence of Quorum
II. **Consent Items**
  1. Adoption of Agenda

III.	**Parole Application**	**BOP No.**	**Criminal Case No.**
	1. Mariano SN. Camacho	13-001	89-20/22F/90-84 91-20/36
	2. Joseph C. Arriola Jr.	13-003	09-0225T
	3. Derik C. Reyes	13-004	11-0092/12-0109
	4. Marcelino S. Carlos	13-005	09-0233A
IV.	**Re-Parole Application**	**BOP No.**	**Criminal Case No.**
	1. Mark Wayne Torres	07-004	00-0012
V.	**Rescission Decision**	**BOP No.**	**Criminal Case No.**
	1. David T. Diaz	10-005	01-0381E

VI. **Miscellaneous**
  1. Other Matters
VII. **Adjournment**

If you have any question, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ **Ramon B. Camacho**
Chairman

Date: 4/18/2013

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: IFB13-CHCC-114

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JUNE 03, 2013 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CONTAINER REFRIGERATION UNIT-40' FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO **MR. WARREN P. VILLAGOMEZ** HOSPITAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DIRECTOR AT (670) 236-8762, OR FAX TO (670) 236-8769 **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, MAY 22, 2013**.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **ESTHER L. MUNA**
INTERIM, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER-CHCC

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: IFB13-CHCC-115

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JUNE 03, 2013 TIME: 11:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) EKG/ECG MACHINE & TWO (2) MOBILE CART STAND FOR EKG MACHINE FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO **MR. WARREN P. VILLAGOMEZ** HOSPITAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DIRECTOR AT (670) 236-8762, OR FAX TO (670) 236-8769 **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, MAY 22, 2013**.

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/S/ **ESTHER L. MUNA**
INTERIM, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER-CHCC

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

Off The Wall

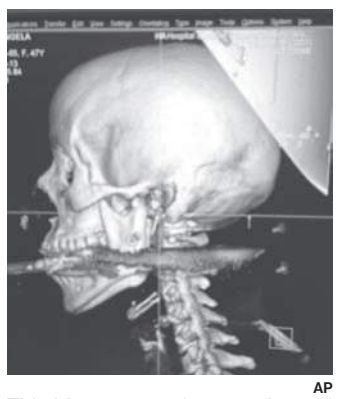
Brazilian woman survives harpoon shooting

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—A 28-year-old woman miraculously survived after her husband accidentally shot her in the mouth with a harpoon, Brazilian officials said Wednesday.

The Rio de Janeiro State Health Department said in a statement that the woman's husband was cleaning his spear gun when it went off, firing a harpoon that hit her cervical spine.

Elisangela Borborema Rosa was rushed to the hospital and underwent emergency surgery after Monday's incident in the coastal city of Arraial do Cabo.

The statement quotes neurosurgeon Allan da Costa as saying that the harpoon came within 1 centimeter (less than half an inch) of killing the woman. He said he expects a full recovery.



AP

This May 6, 2013 image released Wednesday, May 8, 2013, by Rio de Janeiro State Health Department, shows the spear that was accidentally shot through the mouth of Elisangela Borborema Rosa, in the coastal city of Arrial do Cabo, Brazil.

A police officer in Arrial do Cabo said by telephone that officials are looking into the case.

"Everything indicates it was an accident, but we are investigating. We don't think the husband tried to kill her," said the officer, who cited department policy in declining to let her name be used.

"But once she fully recovers we will be able to question her and get a clearer picture of what happened."

Rodman to Kim: 'Do me a solid' and free American

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Former NBA star Dennis Rodman is tapping his friendship with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to ask for the release of a Korean-American man sentenced to 15 years of hard labor in the North.

"I'm calling on the Supreme Leader of North Korea or as I call him `Kim', to do me a solid and cut Kenneth Bae loose," Rodman said on Twitter. He later called the tweet a direct response to a Seattle Times editorial that dared him to ask Kim for the release if the two are really buddies.

Rodman visited North Korea in February and sat next to Kim as they watched an exhibition basketball game. His trip came at a time of high tension between Pyongyang and Washington and was not endorsed by the U.S. State Department.

Bae is a tour operator who was arrested in North Korea in November. The North's Supreme Court sentenced him last week for unspecified "hostile acts" against the state. In a Foreign Ministry statement on Sunday, North Korea said the 44-year-old Washington state man entered the country with a disguised identity.

Bae is at least the sixth American detained in North Korea since 2009. The others eventually were deported or released, some after trips to Pyongyang by prominent Americans, including former U.S. presidents Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter.

North Korea's Foreign Ministry rejected speculation that it was seeking a U.S. envoy to negotiate Bae's release, saying he is not a political bargaining chip.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Scratch-and-sniff cards prompt natural gas scare

GREAT FALLS, Mont. (AP)—Those scratch-and-sniff cards the energy company sends to customers to teach them to recognize the artificial smell added to natural gas? Turns out they work pretty well. Energy West general manager Nick Bohr tells the Great Falls Tribune that workers recently discarded several boxes of expired scratch-and-sniff cards in Great Falls. But when the garbage truck picked them up and compressed the load Bohr says "it was the same as if they had scratched them." The resulting odor prompted numerous false alarms and building evacuations as the garbage truck traveled through downtown Great Falls on Wednesday morning, leaving the smell in its trail. Bohr says the company apologizes for the disruption.

NJ governor 'saves' children from spider

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie wasn't in a pardoning mood when an itsy, bitsy spider crawled on his desk while he spoke to a group of schoolchildren. The students spotted the arachnid near the governor's phone on Friday. Speaking softly, Christie gave the spider a smack down. The governor told the students that one fun part of being governor is you're allowed to kill any bugs on your desk without getting into trouble. Christie tweeted that he had "saved a few school children from a spider." People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals President Ingrid Newkirk issued a statement saying Christie probably killed it without thinking. Newkirk said "some people put the spider outside, but spiders are often scary" and that can prevent people from pondering their worth.

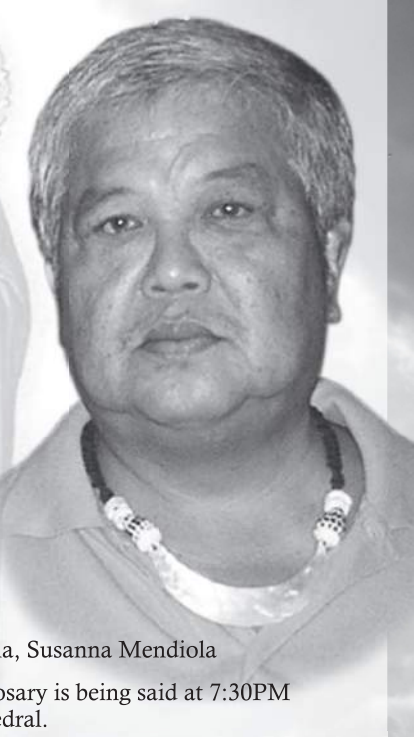
Wash. State graduate wears wedding gown under robe

PULLMAN, Wash. (AP)—With friends and family already gathered for her graduation from Washington State University, Cassie Dotts thought it would be a good time for another ceremony—her wedding. She married University of Idaho fisheries science graduate Ben Ho in a ceremony on Friday in Moscow, Idaho. Then she received her doctorate in veterinary medicine in Saturday's WSU graduation in Pullman, Wash. The Moscow-Pullman Daily News reports that Dotts wore her cap and gown over her wedding dress for people who wanted to see her as both a graduate and newlywed. The couple plans to move to Dotts' native Nevada where she plans to work as a veterinarian in Las Vegas.

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

†Juan S. Dela Cruz

Born on March 06, 1955 and was called to his eternal rest on May 02, 2013.



In His New Life; He Now Joins His:
Parents In-Law: Vicente B. Mendiola & Francisca S. Mendiola
Sister In-Law: Carmen M. Torres
Sons: Vicente M. Dela Cruz, Jesus M. Dela Cruz

His Memories Will Forever Live In The Hearts Of His:
Wife: Lydia M. Dela Cruz
Children and Family: John Jr. M. Dela Cruz (Denalyn, Jayna, John Jr. III, Lyena); Fermin M. Dela Cruz & Rita Aldan (Raynita, Benjomin, Kailina, Jude); Frances M. Dela Cruz (Lyances Juanay); Lina M. Dela Cruz & Andrew P. Santos; Joshua M. Dela Cruz & Trina D. Reyes (Joshua Blaize)
Parents: Fermin O. Dela Cruz & Juana S. Dela Cruz
Brothers, Sisters, and In-Laws: Joaquin & Trinidad Dela Cruz, Francisco & Elvie Dela Cruz, Ramon & Rebecca Dela Cruz, Thomas & Joann Dela Cruz, Edward & Kathy Dela Cruz, Ramona & Roman Borja, Pauline Dela Cruz, Maryana & Norman Indalecio, Barbara Dela Cruz

Raphael & †Carmen Torres, Roman & Anna Tudela, Susanna Mendiola

Mass is being offered at 6:00 AM and nightly Rosary is being said at 7:30PM at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

On Saturday, May 11, 2013 our beloved's remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home to Mount Carmel Cathedral at 7:30 AM.

Responso Service will be at 8:00AM followed by the Holy Rosary.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 AM immediately followed by interment service at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers.

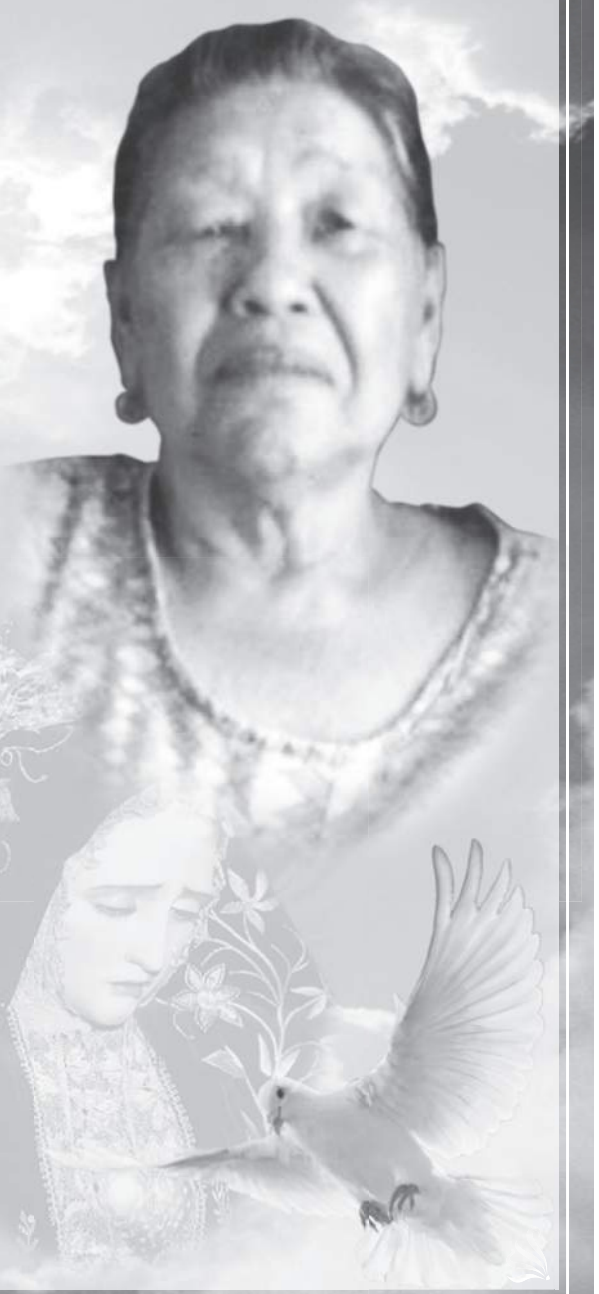
Si Yu'us Ma'ase – Thank You

Lydia M. Dela Cruz Children and Family

First Year Death Anniversary

In Loving Memory of Our Beloved,

†Delgadina Basa Blas Matagolai



We the Children and families, of the late Delgandina Basa Blas Matagolai would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the first year anniversary of our beloved Mother's passing unto eternal life.

Mass of intention will be celebrated daily Santa Soledad Church in Kagman at 6:00 PM beginning on Friday, May 10th thru Saturday, May 18, 2013, except on Sunday, May 12th Mass will be offered at 7:00 AM.

Holy Rosary is being said at 7:00 PM at the family residence of Linda Matagolai & Steven VanWinkle in Kagman 2, Alagita St.

On the final day on Saturday, May 18, 2013. Mass will be celebrated at 6:00 PM at Santa Soledad Church. Dinner will be served immediately after the Mass at the residence at Linda Matagolai & Steven VanWinkle.

Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.

Thank you – Si Yu'us Ma'ase

THE FAMILY

Science & Technology

Google Glass is a hit with early adopters

By BRANDON BAILEY
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

Back when she was in college, software developer Monica Wilkinson says, she used to dream of "being able to carry a computer in my head," instead of lugging her books and laptop all over campus. As she tried out her new Google Glass recently, Wilkinson said, it felt like that fanciful idea had become real.

Dan McLaughlin, an engineer and photography buff, has been using his new Glass to take pictures without fumbling for his camera. Tech business consultant Lisa Oshima said she likes hearing turn-by-turn directions from Glass as she walks to client meetings in downtown Palo Alto, Calif. Startup executive Brandon Allgood, meanwhile, has learned to remove his Glass headset before sitting down to dinner with his wife.

MCT

Software developer Monica Wilkinson wears Google Glass at Crushpath in San Francisco,California, on April 27, 2013.

The four San Francisco Bay Area tech workers are among the first non-Google employees to get their own early model of Glass, after paying $1,500 for the visor-like, wearable computer that's already got critics fretting over potential violations of privacy and etiquette—even as enthusiasts proclaim it could change the way people interact with technology.

"The human body has a lot of limitations. I see this as a way to enhance our bodies," said Wilkinson, 36, who is head of engineering at San Francisco startup Crushpath.

Glass resembles a pair of high-tech eyeglasses, but without lenses: Its lightweight frame rests on the ears and nose, suspending a small prism in the upper right corner of a wearer's field of vision. The prism displays pictures, video or text, including emails, directions from Google's navigation service and answers to Internet search queries.

Along with a digital camera, Glass has a tiny touch pad built into one earpiece and a microphone to pick up voice commands. The earpiece uses "bone conduction" to deliver sound by vibrating against the wearer's skull. Glass connects to the Internet through Wi-Fi or a Bluetooth link to the user's smartphone.

So far, early adopters say they've received curious stares and friendly questions, but no hostile reactions while wearing something that resembles a prop from "Star Trek" around the tech-friendly Bay Area. Construction workers and mass-transit riders have told Oshima they think Glass is cool.

And despite critics' fears that Glass wearers might surreptitiously record someone's private moment—or use Glass to rudely surf the Web while someone is talking to them—Wilkinson and the others predict those concerns will subside as Glass owners develop their own etiquette.

Allgood, for example, said he removes the headset in the evening because his wife is less enthusiastic about new technology than he is. He has also made a practice of sliding it to the top of his head when he enters a men's restroom, so the camera is pointed at the ceiling and no one gets alarmed.

GOOGLE GLASS

With a lightweight metal and plastic frame, Glass looks something like a pair of high-tech spectacles without traditional lenses. Here are some specifications:

■ **HARDWARE:** High-resolution display, 5-megapixel camera, bone conduction transducer for audio, Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity and 12 gigabytes of usable flash memory; battery charge lasts approximately one day.

■ **PRICE:** $1,500 for initial model sold to "Explorers" who signed up last year; Google has hinted the price may be lower once production ramps up.

■ **AVAILABILITY:** Google had said consumer sales could start by the end of 2013, but Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt recently said 2014 is more likely.

■ **FEATURES:** Basic services include Gmail, Internet search and the ability to hold online video chats or upload photos to Google+. GPS navigation and text messaging is available when connected via Bluetooth to an Android smartphone running Google's MyGlass app.

■ **THIRD-PARTY APPLICATIONS:** Google has shown a few apps from outside developers; one delivers headlines from The New York Times, while others let Glass-wearers upload images to the online services Evernote and Skitch, or post brief updates to the Path social network.

SOURCE: Staff reporting

The mystery of the disappearing email

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I received nine emails with photos from a relative in Puerto Rico. When I opened the first one, it suddenly disappeared from view. I thought that I had inadvertently deleted it in some way and checked in the "trash" file, but it wasn't there. So I went back to the "inbox" to open the second email, and to my surprise, none of the eight remaining emails were there. But all other emails I had received were still there, and my computer is otherwise working perfectly. What happened?—Andy Fuertes, Miami

ANSWER: I suspect that a computer glitch at your email provider caused your email to disappear.

While your email provider is Bellsouth.net, it is owned by AT&T, which in turn outsources its consumer email accounts to Yahoo. Yahoo's email software was upgraded in April, and following that there were scattered reports of people mysteriously losing email from their accounts.

You can take your particular problem directly to Yahoo by typing in "email is disappearing" at Yahoo's Answers site, at http://tinyurl.com/bp2omd9. You'll be asked to sign in to your email, then allowed to describe your problem in more detail.

Yahoo also offers a help page for people who have lost emails, at http://tinyurl.com/d9p96u3, that suggests ways to search your other email folders for missing messages. It also tells you what to do if you believe your email account has been hacked.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: I had problems with your explanation two weeks ago of how to get rid of the browser hijacking program "start.search.us.com." When I went to the website you recommended and downloaded the "free" software there, it turned out to be software that cost me $30 and showed that I had 553 errors on my computer. When I called to "activate" the software, a technician urged me to pay another $200 to clean up the computer problems.

When recommending software, you should check out these people.—Dewayne Moss, Mishawaka, Ind.

A: I'm afraid you downloaded the wrong software, but it's partly my fault. I should have warned readers that these free advice websites are often cluttered with advertisements for related software, not all of it reputable. As a result, it's easy to click on the wrong software download, as I believe you did. I apologize for that.

The free download on the website I suggested, at http://tinyurl.com/cpgldyn, is the legitimate free program Malwarebytes. A safer way for you to download the software is to go to hhttp://tinyurl.com/blqaum7, scroll down to "Malwarebytes Anti-Malware" and click the green "download now" button on the right. You should get a pop-up box that says "mbam-setup-1.75.0.1300.exe." You'll be asked to run or save the program, depending on which Web browser you're using. If you save it, go to your browser's "Tools" menu, choose "Downloads" and double-click the program to install it.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. *Readers may write to him at steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

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THE GREAT GATSBY [CC] (PG-13)
Fri. - Mon.(420 PM)

IRON MAN 3 [CC] (PG-13)
Fri.(425 PM) 725 PM 1025 PM
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THE GREAT GATSBY 3D [CC] (PG-13)
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IRON MAN 3 3D [CC] (PG-13)
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Sun.(100 PM 400 PM) 700 PM
Mon.(400 PM) 700 PM

PAIN AND GAIN (R)
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OBLIVION [CC] (PG-13)
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Sun. - Mon.(430 PM) 730 PM

OBLIVION [CC] (PG-13)
Sat. - Sun.(130 PM)

JURASSIC PARK 3D (PG-13)
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Mon.(415 PM) 715 PM

GI JOE: RETALIATION [CC] (PG-13)
Fri.710 PM
Sat. - Sun.(110 PM) 710 PM
Mon.710 PM

THE CROODS [CC] (PG)
Fri. - Sat.(410 PM) 945 PM
Sun. - Mon.(410 PM)

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Science Matters

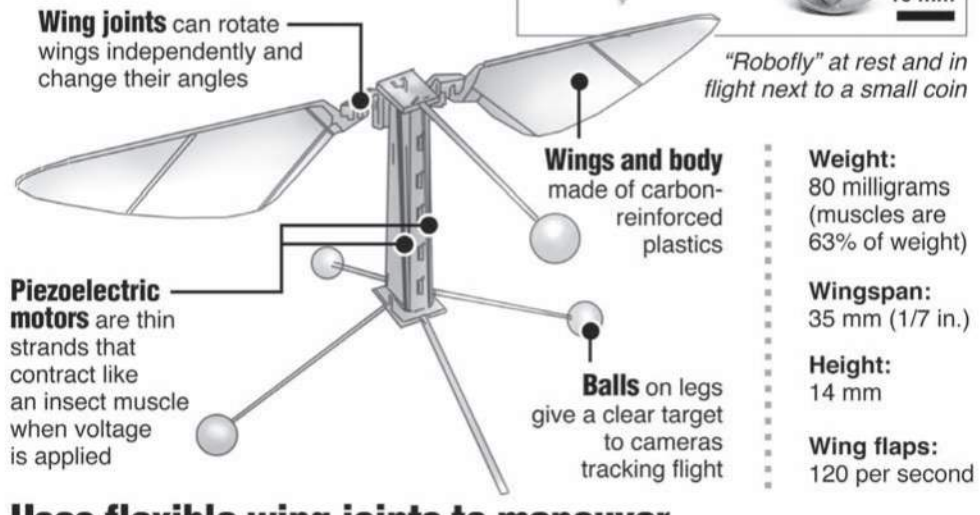
An insect-size flying robot

Harvard researchers have built the world's smallest steerable flying robot, a tiny, agile carbon fiber machine that can make the quick maneuvers of a real insect.

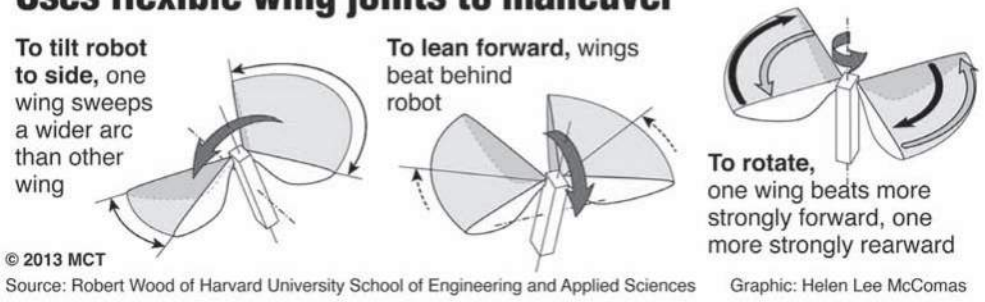
For now, tethered flight

A thin wire carried control signals and electric power to "Robofly" as it flew

Researchers who built vehicle and its control system expect **on-board power and computer** will be built in coming years


Wing joints can rotate wings independently and change their angles
"Robofly" at rest and in flight next to a small coin
Wings and body made of carbon-reinforced plastics
Piezoelectric motors are thin strands that contract like an insect muscle when voltage is applied
Balls on legs give a clear target to cameras tracking flight
Weight: 80 milligrams (muscles are 63% of weight)
Wingspan: 35 mm (1/7 in.)
Height: 14 mm
Wing flaps: 120 per second

Uses flexible wing joints to maneuver


To tilt robot to side, one wing sweeps a wider arc than other wing
To lean forward, wings beat behind robot
To rotate, one wing beats more strongly forward, one more strongly rearward

© 2013 MCT

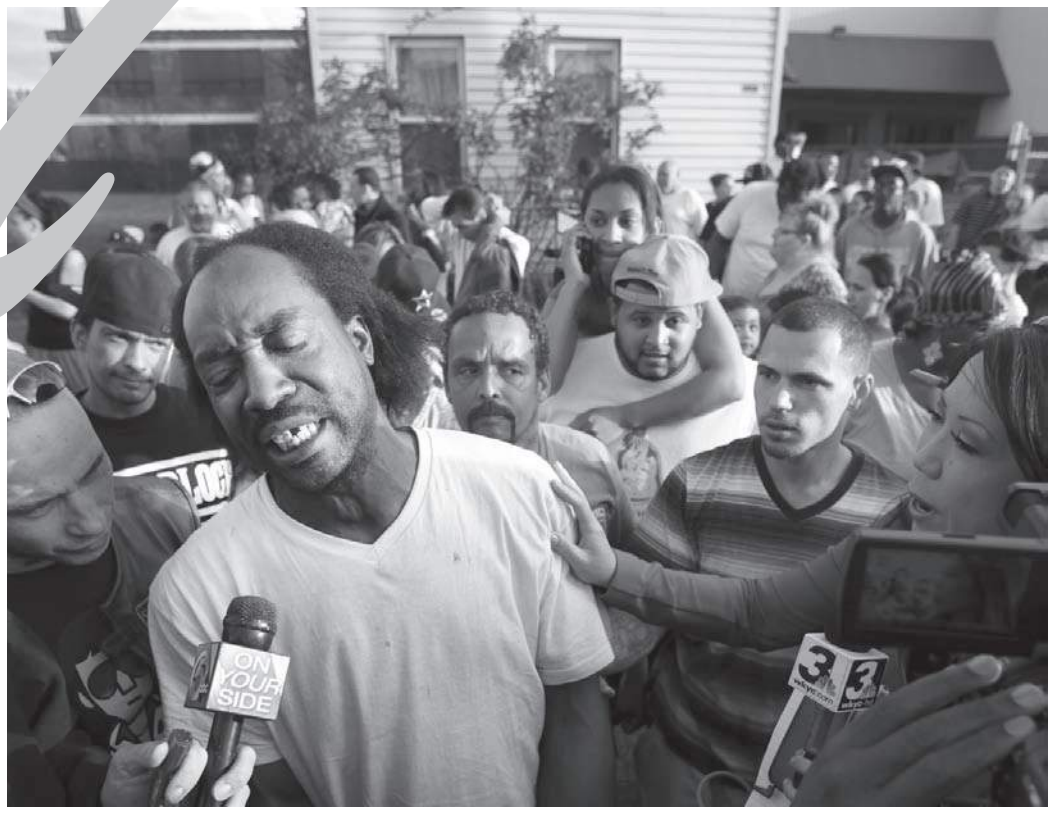
Source: Robert Wood of Harvard University School of Engineering and Applied Sciences

Graphic: Helen Lee McComas

Life & Style

Charles Ramsey's turbulent 15 minutes of fame

NEW YORK (AP)—Helping to free three women from nearly a decade in captivity would seem to be enough. Neighbor Charles Ramsey has also become a star, offering moments of levity in an unspeakably horrible story, free publicity for a restaurant chain and unexpected lessons in race relations.



AP

Neighbor Charles Ramsey speaks to media near the home on the 2200 block of Seymour Avenue, where three missing women were rescued in Cleveland, on Monday, May 6, 2013.

Ramsey lived next door to where Ariel Castro is alleged to have kept the women in a makeshift prison until Monday afternoon, when Ramsey happened to be home and heard Amanda Berry's scream.

Or let him tell it: "I got the day off from work, so naturally you're doing nothing."

Actually, he was "eating my McDonald's," a fact he trumpeted so frequently that the grateful food giant is trying to get in touch with him. A website that compiled some of Ramsey's television interviews kept count of how many times he mentioned McDonald's in each.

Ramsey, 43, gave a series of interviews to Cleveland television stations as the story broke Monday night that were replayed on national news. CNN's Anderson Cooper tracked him down for a lengthy conversation the next night. The interviews are performance art masterpieces, so filled with colorful language and astute reporting that he trended on Twitter and was the subject of Internet memes and an Auto-tuned song.

Similarly, a tape of a much more profane Ramsey talking to a 911 operator (whom he later called an imbecile) is circulating on the Web.

During his initial interviews, Ramsey said he was shocked to learn of allegations that Ariel Castro led a double life. Ramsey said he "used to barbecue with this dude. We eat ribs and whatnot, listen to salsa music."

There was nothing exciting about Castro, he said. "Until today," he added.

"You've got some big testicles to pull this off, bro," he said.

During his Tuesday interview with Cooper, Ramsey, who works at Hodge's Restaurant in Cleveland, noted that he had trouble sleeping with the knowledge of what had been happening in the house next door. "Up until yesterday, the only thing that had me losing sleep was the lack of money," he said.

If he had known what was going on, he said he'd be facing a homicide charge for taking matters into his own hands.

"I'm glad it turned out this way," Cooper replied.

Ramsey's realization of what was happening on Monday was itself a revealing observation on race. Seeing a white girl in that situation was "a dead giveaway" that she was either homeless or had other problems, he said.

"When a little pretty white girl ran into a black man's arms, something was wrong," he said.

That sentence itself made Ramsey's interviewer uncomfortable; their conversation quickly ended. But the sound bite was also highlighted in a parody song that was quickly doctored with Auto-tune and posted online. The phrases picked out for the song—like "we eat ribs with this dude"—also seemed to emphasize Ramsey's blackness.

Past examples of television interviews that seem to play to exaggerated ethnic stereotypes have been the subject of online mockery that struck some observers as racist. An Alabama man, Antoine Dodson, had his comments about a relative's attempted rape go viral.

Ramsey is the latest "hilarious black neighbor" to become an Internet celebrity, wrote Aisha Harris on the website Slate. "It's difficult to watch these videos and not sense their popularity has something to do with a persistent, if unconscious, desire to see black people perform," she wrote.

Former Jackson defender now says singer abused him

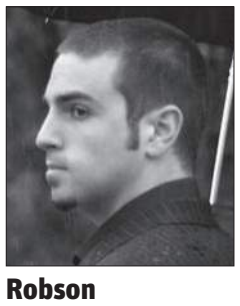
LOS ANGELES (AP)—A choreographer and television personality who was a key witness in Michael Jackson's successful defense against child molestation charges is seeking permission to file a claim against the singer's estate alleging the pop superstar sexually abused him as a child, court records and an attorney said.

Wade Robson was abused by Jackson during a seven-year period, the choreographer's attorney, Henry Gradstein, wrote in a statement Wednesday. The attorney said Robson, 30, suffered a breakdown last year but has not stated how much his client is seeking to recoup from Jackson's estate if a judge permits him to pursue his abuse allegations.

Details on Robson's accusations were filed under seal.

The molestation allegations have been fiercely denied by an attorney for Jackson's estate and the singer's criminal defense attorney, Thomas Mesereau Jr.

"Mr. Robson was one of my strongest witnesses in Michael Jackson's criminal trial," Mesereau said. "I called him to the stand at the beginning of the defense case and he was adamant that he had never been improperly touched or molested. This makes no sense."



Robson

Robson was the first defense witness during the 2005 trial that ended with Jackson's acquittal on molestation charges. He also spoke favorably about Jackson after the singer's death in June 2009.

"Last year, on a career trajectory that was off the charts, (Robson) collapsed under the stress and sexual trauma of what had happened to him for seven years as a child," Gradstein wrote in a statement that referred to Jackson as a sexual predator.

"There are significant legal issues involved in this case that have the potential to impact lives beyond just our client," he wrote.

Gradstein said he could not discuss specifics of the case, but he cited Robson's recent breakdown as the choreographer's reason for reversing his previous statements about Jackson. "As a result, he started intensive treatment which ultimately led to his ability to come forward," Gradstein said.

Robson, an Australian-born choreographer, has appeared on the Fox series "So You Think You Can Dance" and worked with Britney Spears and other stars.

"Mr. Robson's claim is outrageous and pathetic," Jackson estate attorney Howard Weitzman wrote in a statement. "This is a young man who has testified at least twice under oath over the past 20 years and said in numerous interviews that Michael Jackson never did anything inappropriate to him or with him. Now, nearly four years after Michael has passed this sad and less than credible claim has been made. We are confident that the court will see this for what it is."

Gradstein filed a motion seeking permission to file a late creditor's claim against Jackson's estate on May 1, nearly four years after the singer's death, court records show. Most of the documents are sealed pending a June court hearing, but a summary of the documents states the choreographer includes a declaration from a psychiatrist and an "Unfiled Complaint for Childhood Sexual Abuse."

Grandson's choice of toys is cause for family's concern

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a longtime reader but a first-time writer. My problem has been bothering me for some time now.

We have a grandson who is 4 and very much a "princess boy." He likes girl toys and dresses and doesn't like any of his boy toys. We're at a loss about how to handle this.

He's an adorable little boy and we love him to pieces. His parents don't accept this behavior, and I'm afraid it will affect him now and in the future. How would you handle this? We don't say anything to his parents because they are pretty much in denial

WORRIED GRANDMA

DEAR WORRIED: If he were my grandchild I'd talk with the parents. I, too, am concerned about how their attitude will affect the child in the future, because parents are supposed to love and accept children the way they are, and sexual orientation is inborn. Children who feel consistent disapproval grow up thinking they aren't good enough and don't measup—which can be a self-fulfilling prophecy.

I would "handle this" by making sure my grandson knew I loved, accepted and valued him just the way he is. If that means allowing him to play with the toys of his choice in my home, that's what I'd do. And if he showed more interest in art, music and dance and less interest in sports, trucks, etc., I'd support that, too.

I'm glad you asked this question. Your grandson may or may not grow up to be gay or transgender, which is what I think your letter is really about. Regardless of what his orientation is, it's very important that he knows he is valued for who he is.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I know this boy that I really love. He's nice, smart and funny and I think about him all the time. He says he loves me back.

Is this true love, or just a mutual crush? I know I'm only 13, but I think I'm in love. Is it ridiculous to think I have found true love in seventh grade? How can I tell whether it's love or not? And what would you consider the usual age to find your perfect other half?

CONFUSED IN LOVE

DEAR CONFUSED: No one can predict how old you will be when you meet someone who is your perfect other half. People's interests and needs evolve as they grow older, and what seems perfect today can seem less so when viewed through the lens of life experience.

I would never label your feelings as "ridiculous," but when you are in love, there is usually no doubt about it. Because you need to ask someone else if what you're feeling is true love, then it probably isn't.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I met a guy on an online dating site. It turns out I know him. He works at a store I shop in three times a week. He's nice, funny and everything I'm looking for in a guy except he's 25 and I'm 17.

He knows how old I am and for a while he was fine with it. Now he thinks I'm a cop and I'm going to bust him for trying to have sex with me 'cause I'm underage. He explained why he thinks that, and he made sense. But I'm NOT a cop. I gave him information trying to prove I'm not.

Abby, I really like him. How do I prove that I'm not a cop? How do I show him he can trust me?

NEEDS ADVICE IN OREGON

DEAR NEEDS ADVICE: Undercover cops are older than 17. Because you say this man was "fine" with seeing you, but now is pulling away, it is possible that he is trying to let you down without hurting your feelings. You are not yet out of high school and this man is far ahead of you in life experience. Rather than try to talk him into having a sexual relationship with you, you would be much better off finding someone your own age.

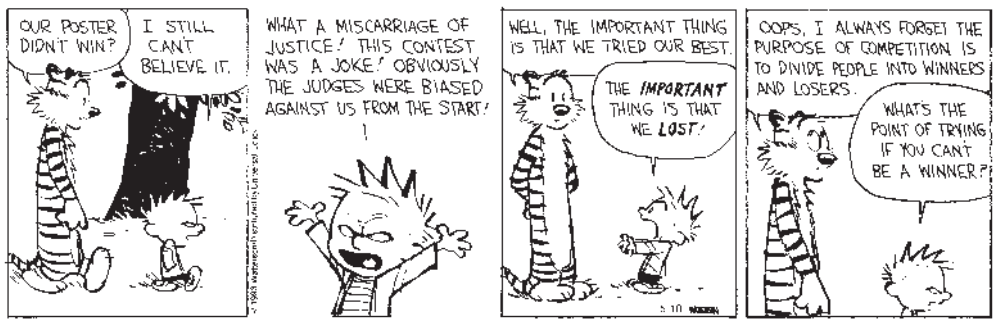
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

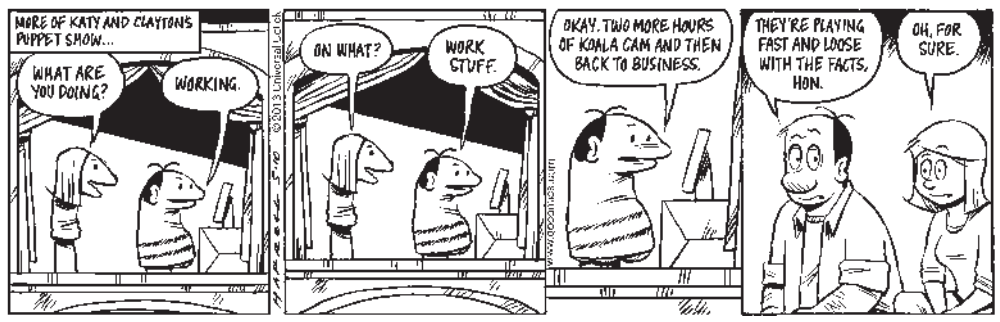

OUR POSTER DIDN'T WIN?
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
WHAT A MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE! THIS CONTEST WAS A JOKE! OBVIOUSLY THE JUDGES WERE BIASED AGAINST US FROM THE START!
WELL, THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT WE TRIED OUR BEST.
THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT WE LOST!
OOPS, I ALWAYS FORGET THE PURPOSE OF COMPETITION IS TO DIVIDE PEOPLE INTO WINNERS AND LOSERS.
WHAT'S THE POINT OF TRYING IF YOU CAN'T BE A WINNER?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

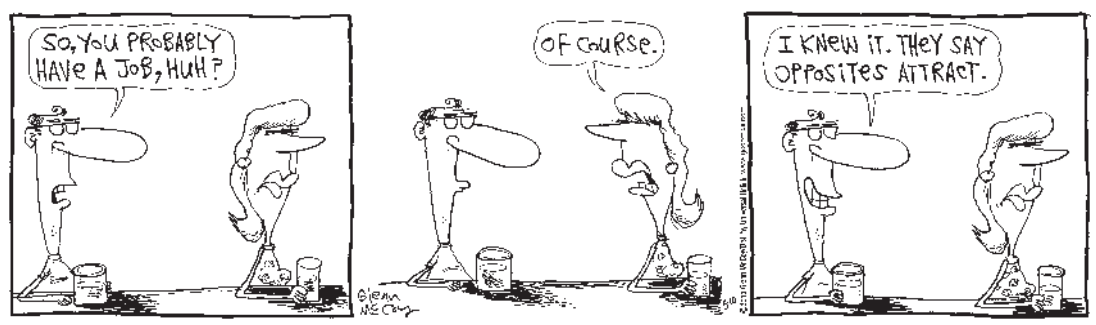
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


MORE OF KATY AND CLAYTONS PUPPET SHOW...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WORKING.
ON WHAT?
WORK STUFF.
OKAY. TWO MORE HOURS OF KOALA CAM AND THEN BACK TO BUSINESS.
THEY'RE PLAYING FAST AND LOOSE WITH THE FACTS, HON.
OH, FOR SURE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

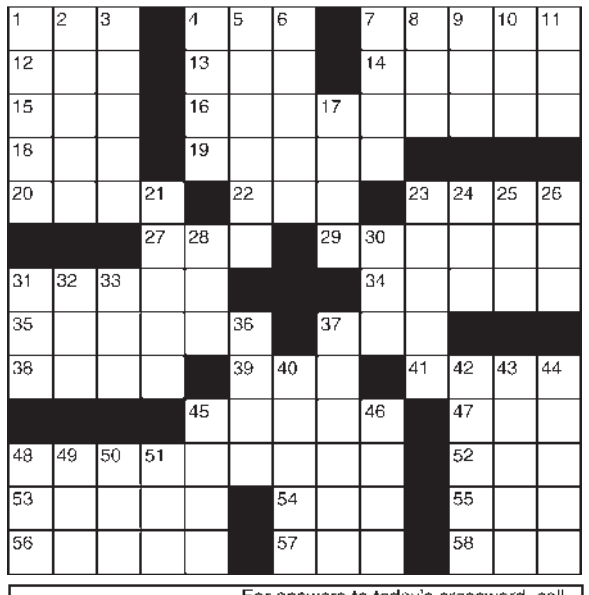
ACROSS
1 TGIF part
4 Bing's buddy
7 Block the flow
12 Just out
13 "Hail!"
14 Become one
15 Meadow
16 High-flying tourist
18 $ dispenser
19 Soviet cooperative
20 Genius
22 Decorate Easter eggs
23 Boast
27 Discoverer's cry
29 Weaken, in a way
31 Nary a soul
34 Star in Orion's left foot
35 "Now" or "never"
37 Drench
38 TV dinner veggies
39 "Go, team!"
41 Wild and crazy
45 Rescues
47 "The Raven" writer
48 TV show for entrepreneurial hopefuls
52 Transgression
53 Asian nation
54 Hockey surface
55 Superlative ending
56 That is (Lat.)
57 "Ben-Hur" author Wallace
58 Vast expanse

DOWN
1 Extended family member
2 "Choppers"
3 Hindu ascetic
4 Mexican peninsula
5 Exaggerate
6 White or Grable
7 One-on-one fight
8 Pismire
9 Bay State sch.
10 Multipurpose truck
11 Apiece
17 Start a garden
21 Regions
23 All-out attack
24 Carpet
25 Consumed
26 Solidify
28 That woman
30 Anger
31 Siesta
32 Praise in verse
33 Eggs
36 Unruly kid?
37 From what place
40 Use
42 Church recesses
43 Din
44 Busybody
45 Old card game
46 Distort
48 Tackle moguls
49 Scuttle
50 Exist
51 Scale notes

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	B	S		P	I	E	S		V	E	A	L
D	U	N		E	I	R	E		I	D	L	E
S	N	O	W	B	I	R	D		S	I	T	E
		W	E	B		S	E	N	A	I	O	N
C	O	D	D	L	E		R	E	V			
A	I	R		E	L	F		W	I	S	P	S
S	L	O	B		M	O	W		S	N	I	T
H	Y	P	E	R		B	A	D		O	N	A
			N	O	D		D	R	O	W	S	Y
P	E	R	I	W	I	G		A	R	C		
L	A	O	S		S	N	O	W	B	A	L	L
O	S	I	O		C	A	R	I		P	I	A
T	E	E	N		O	W	E	S		S	E	X

Yesterday's answer 5-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Missy Franklin, 18; Kenan Thompson, 35; Bono, 53; Donovan, 67

Happy Birthday: Push a little harder. If you want something, don't wait for it to come to you. Force issues and show your strengths. Don't allow bullies to take over or mold you. Gather up your thoughts, ideas and plans and choose to take the path that guides you to your success—not someone else's. Use your knowledge, communication and experience to build confidence and make connections. Your numbers are 5, 11, 19, 24, 36, 41, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Rethink the past before you make the same mistake again. Stand up for your rights but don't jeopardize your position. Serious talks and negotiations will show your strength. Love is kicking in, so make plans to party in the evening hours. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You'll impress the people you encounter. A trip may present you with unexpected decisions, but nothing that you cannot handle. Your ability to take charge and find solutions will lead to greater opportunities personally and professionally. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll have a lot to consider financially, legally or medically. Don't take chances. Slow down and make your decisions based on facts, figures and whatever expert advice you can obtain. Don't let self-deception be your downfall. Do what's best for you. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Your peers will look up to you. Use your intelligence, good memory and sound judgment to come up with solutions that will benefit everyone involved with you. Your popularity is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Do whatever you can for others. It's your generosity and your dedication that will put you into the spotlight. Not everyone will like what you do, and some may even criticize you, but know in your heart that you did the right thing. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll have a wealth of knowledge to share with your friends and family. Your experience and expertise will help you resolve issues that have been pending for some time. Keep your expenditures moderate. Listen, respond and show your leadership ability. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Look at your financial situation and options. Protect your assets from someone who may want a chunk of what you've worked so hard to acquire. A change in your current relationships will help open doors to a brighter future. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Partnerships and personal relationships will blossom if you interact and share your thoughts. Much can be accomplished both at work and at home if you collaborate and make definite plans for future expansion. Let your intuition be your guide. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't be fooled by someone making idle promises. Ulterior motives are apparent and you don't want to end up giving too much for what's really being offered. Draw up an agreement you can live with or take a pass. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Make plans that will accommodate the people in your life who you love the most. Do whatever you can to build your personal assets. Your responsibilities may increase, but so will your power, control and future prospects. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Expansion at home will allow you to develop something you want to pursue. Love and romance are in the stars, and making special plans will bring you closer to that special someone. You will learn a valuable lesson from someone you respect. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Keep your life simple and to the point. Too much of anything will slow down your progress. Hard work, dedication and loyalty to the people who have given you the most in the past will lead to a bright future and new beginnings. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are tenacious, regimented and determined. You strive for quality, not quantity.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6					7			3
	8						2	
4				9				8
2				8				
		4		6		7		
				5				9
8				1				2
	5						6	
7			2					1

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	7	3	2	5	6	1	4	9
1	4	9	7	8	3	5	6	2
6	5	2	4	9	1	3	8	7
3	6	8	9	7	5	2	1	4
4	9	7	1	3	2	8	5	6
5	2	1	6	4	8	7	9	3
9	8	4	5	2	7	6	3	1
2	3	6	8	1	4	9	7	5
7	1	5	3	6	9	4	2	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/09

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

STOMPIN' TOM CONNORS (1936-2013) **Solution: 8 letters**

H	D	B	N	H	O	F	F	I	C	E	R	M	S	R
O	O	A	I	T	O	R	P	H	A	N	A	G	E	G
N	M	C	C	L	I	L	I	V	E	E	G	B	N	N
O	I	T	K	H	G	L	E	K	R	N	E	M	I	I
R	N	H	N	E	A	U	L	D	O	L	B	L	M	D
A	I	G	A	S	Y	R	I	S	B	O	X	C	A	R
R	O	I	M	T	S	A	I	T	O	C	B	E	D	O
Y	N	N	E	E	F	E	S	T	A	N	E	L	Ⓑ	C
R	H	A	R	T	A	O	K	U	Y	R	B	H	Ⓤ	E
O	E	I	L	S	M	H	A	T	D	S	P	U	Ⓓ	R
T	E	D	A	O	E	O	J	G	I	B	E	E	R	E
S	L	A	D	N	Y	C	Y	R	T	N	U	O	C	G
I	S	N	Y	T	R	A	P	O	D	U	O	R	P	N
H	W	A	R	E	F	F	U	M	U	S	I	C	Y	I
V	O	C	A	L	S	R	Y	A	D	R	U	T	A	S

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Yesterday's Answer: Designers

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Apply: Rm. 3D, 3rd Floor, TSL Building, Garapan.
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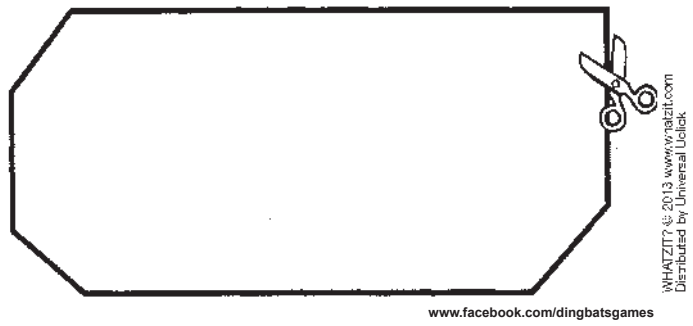

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Find today's solution in classified section

Bulls get rolled by Miami, lose Game 2

MIAMI (AP)—Joakim Noah was ejected early in the fourth quarter, and Taj Gibson followed him to the locker room a few seconds later after getting two technicals of his own.

They had no desire to see the ending.

And really, who on the Chicago Bulls' bench could've blamed them?

"Things don't go your way, you're competitors, you want to go out there and do everything you can when you feel you're being cheated," forward Carlos Boozer said. "You're going to say something about it. But regardless we don't place the blame on anybody else, we put it on our shoulders and we'll play better."

After nine technical fouls, two ejections and a whole lot of extracurricular pushing and shoving, the end results were as follows: The biggest postseason win in Heat history, the biggest postseason loss in Chicago Bulls history, and tons of fresh venom pulsing through the veins of this now-tied Eastern Conference semifinal series. Miami won 115-78, a stunning outcome for a game that was basically back-and-forth for much of the first half.

That is, until the Heat started embarrassing the Bulls, and the Bulls started embarrassing themselves for good measure.

"No matter if you win by 20, 30, or one point, it's a 1-1 series," Heat star LeBron James said. "They came in and did their job. They got one on our floor and took home court. So, we've got to try to go Chicago and get it back."

Game 3 is Friday in Chicago, where the Heat will have to win at least one game if they're going to win the series.

Ray Allen scored 21 points in only 19 minutes, James finished with 19 points and nine assists, and the Heat led by as many as 46 points. Sure, the Heat have lost home-court advantage when they dropped Game 1. But this domination made the reigning NBA champions look like the clear-cut team to beat in this title race once again.

"Today, something was different," said Bulls guard Nate Robinson, who made 3 of his 10 shots. "Not just with our play, just today was just weird."

Noah and Gibson were tossed with 10:13 remaining, and the league will almost certainly review some of the things said and done in a game that was close for the first 20 minutes. The Bulls were called for six player technicals, the most by any team in a playoff game since Boston had that many against Indiana in 2005, according to STATS LLC.

"I don't know how many techs we got. ... I would call that not keeping your cool, not being very Zen," Noah said.

Boozer, who scored only eight points, said he didn't fault his teammates for speaking their minds—although cameras suggested that Gibson's language was more than a little colorful.

The Heat had three technicals assessed, a season-high for them.

Norris Cole scored 18 points for Miami, which got 15 from Dwyane Wade and 13 from Chris Bosh. The Heat led 42-38 with 3:42 left in the first half, before going on an absurd 62-20 run.

Yes, 62-20.

It was that one-sided. Miami shot 60 percent to Chicago's 36, outrebounded the Bulls 41-28, and enjoyed huge edges in points off turnovers (28-7) and fast-break points (20-2).

The only stat that Chicago dominated: Technicals, where the Bulls outpaced Miami 6-3.

"We got sidetracked and you can't do that," Bulls coach Tom Thibodeau said. "We allowed frustration to carry over to the next play. ... You come in here, you're not going to get calls. That's reality."

Marco Belinelli scored 13 for the Bulls, who got 12 from Noah and 11 from Robinson.

For much of the first half, it was everything expected from a Bulls-Heat game, especially after Chicago took Game 1 on Monday night. It was physical—Udonis Haslem sent Robinson flying on the game's first possession, and Belinelli hammered Wade on the ensuing Miami trip, one that ended with Wade getting the first of the game's nine technical fouls for throwing the ball into the Bulls' guard.

James wore a T-shirt that said "Up To Me" before the game, and it appeared the message had some literal meaning. After being held to two first-half points in Game 1, he went 6 for 6 in the opening quarter of Game 2, as Miami took a 25-20 lead.

"I wanted to be aggressive," James said.

It was still close late in the second, before the Heat ended the half on a 13-3 run, one where Cole and Robinson looked like they were playing 1-on-1—and the Miami guard was getting much the best of Chicago's postseason hero so far.

Robinson made a 3-pointer to get Chicago within 49-41, then turned and said some words toward Cole. So Cole quickly had an answer, hitting one corner 3-pointer over Robinson and letting him know about it, then making another 30 seconds later to give Miami what was then its biggest lead of the night.

Of course, it didn't stay that way.

"The whole game was frustrating," Gibson said. "We didn't really play good enough defense to kind of slow them down and stop them like we did in Game 1. I just got a little bit frustrated. I've got to compose myself a little bit better, just trying to be there for my teammates."

James didn't score in the third quarter—he missed all three of his shots—and still was dominant, with five assists in that period alone, as the Heat turned it into a laugher. They outscored the Bulls 30-15 in the third, stretching the lead out to 31 points as Chicago missed 13 of its 17 shots in the period.

"We're capable of much better and we're going to have to be a lot better," Thibodeau said.

Then in the fourth, with the game already lost, the Bulls lost what was left of their composure.

Noah got ejected and while that mess was being sorted out, Gibson got two more technicals and joined his teammate in the visiting locker room.

"I just wanted to let the referee, I wanted to let him know, how I felt about the game," Noah said.

Even TNT announcer Steve Kerr, a former Bulls player, questioned the officiating at that point.

"I don't blame Gibson," Kerr said as Gibson left the court, television cameras catching him direct a stream of what appeared to be profanities toward either referees, players or both.

The Heat never got that wrapped up in the shenanigans, or at least, didn't seem to be bothered by it all.

"Sometimes, it's going to be very physical," Wade said. "But it's the playoffs."

Wade said losing Game 1 was Miami's first true taste of adversity all season, and he was eager to see how the Heat responded. He said the team simply looked itself in the mirror and challenged itself to do better.

That being said, the job is far from done. Chicago's "Madhouse on Madison" now awaits, and by the time most players were dressed after the game Wednesday, Noah was already looking ahead to Friday.

"We didn't play well, but it's not the end of the world," Noah said. "It's 1-1, and it's going to be a big game in Chicago."

AP

Chicago Bulls center Joakim Noah, far right, yells out after he and Miami Heat forward LeBron James (6) received technical fouls during the first half of Game 2 of their NBA basketball playoff series in the Eastern Conference semifinals, Wednesday, May 8, 2013, in Miami.

Warriors 100, Spurs 91

In San Antonio, Golden State coach Mark Jackson insisted the Warriors' historic collapse in the opener of the Western Conference semifinals would only help his team's growth.

The young Warriors took a big step in their development Wednesday night, withstanding another furious rally by the San Antonio Spurs for a 100-91 victory to even their series at one game apiece and snap a 30-game skid in the Alamo City.

Klay Thompson had a career-high 34 points and 14 rebounds, and Stephen Curry added 22 points for Golden State, which had not won in San Antonio since Feb. 14, 1997. None of the losses was as painful as the one Monday.

"I truly believe the trials and tribulations are transportation for where you're going," Jackson said. "Game 1 made us better. We didn't panic. We made plays. That's a heck of a basketball team that's extremely well-coached and has no quit in them. We don't have any quit in us, either. The bottom line is we made the plays we needed to make."

Tim Duncan scored 23 points and Tony Parker added 20 for San Antonio, which had won five straight in the postseason. Manu Ginobili had 12 points and Kawhi Leonard had 11 points and 12 rebounds.

The Warriors blew a 16-point lead with 4 minutes left in regulation in the series opener and lost 129-127 in double overtime. No NBA team had blown such a big lead with such little time left in a playoff game.

It appeared Golden State was headed for a similar collapse Wednesday night, but the heartbreaking loss actually helped settle the players' nerves.

"Coach told us to have amnesia at halftime," Curry said. "We're a young team so that might help that we can forget about it and just keep playing and having fun, not worry about that 19-point lead getting cut to six. That's going to happen; you're on the road against a great veteran basketball team, so you can't get too rattled."

Golden State led by 20 points with 8:38 left in the third quarter, but San Antonio pulled within 97-89 on Ginobli's 3-pointer with 4:23 left in the game.

But it was the closest the Spurs would come, as they missed six straight shots before Cory Joseph sank a 16-footer with 18.9 seconds remaining.

"What happened in Game 1 wasn't about their inexperience," Ginobili said. "It's one of those things that happens very rarely. We shouldn't have won that game. They came out hungrier and with more determination. They just did a much better job than us."

Thompson, who scored 29 points in the first half, finished 8 for 9 on 3-pointers and 13 for 26 overall.

"Klay was unbelievable," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "A lot of those shots were tough. Some of them were wide open because of mistakes, but other ones were difficult shots, either contested or off-balance, but he knocked them down. That's what the playoffs are about; players have to make shots."

The Warriors did so as a group.

Harrison Barnes had 13 points, Carl Landry added 10 and Andrew Bogut had six points and 11 rebounds.

After scoring 44 points in the opener, Curry's total was cut in half as he shot 7 for 20 from the field.

"I thought it was polite of (Curry and Thompson) to at least take turns and not both be on fire on the same night," Popovich said. "Maybe the next iteration (of that) will be neither one of them will be hot in Game 3, that's what I'm hoping."

The Warriors host Game 3 on Friday night and Game 4 Sunday.

"It changed the whole dynamic of the series and we honestly have the best home court in the NBA," Thompson said. "They're the greatest crowd I ever played in front of. To go back 1 and 1 and give them a show on Thursday or Friday, I'm getting jitters already thinking about it. To go back with a split and potentially go up 3-1 is everything for us."

Indians edge Athletics 4-3 on controversial call

CLEVELAND (AP)— An apparent game-tying homer by Oakland's Adam Rosales was ruled a double by umpires in the ninth inning, and the Cleveland Indians held on to beat the Athletics 4-3 on Wednesday night.

Rosales sent a drive off Indians closer Chris Perez that looked as if it cleared the left-field wall. However, second base umpire Angel Hernandez called it a double, and the crew concurred with the original ruling after leaving the field to review the videotape.

When the umpires returned and told Rosales to stay at second, A's manager Bob Melvin sprinted onto the field and was immediately ejected.

TV replays appeared to show the ball cleared the yellow stripe and hit a metal railing above the 19-foot high wall.

Perez wound up loading the bases before getting the final out as the Indians won for the ninth time in 10 games.

Nick Swisher and Carlos Santana homered for Cleveland.

Twins 15, Red Sox 8

In Boston, Pedro Florimon had a solo homer and a two-run double in Minnesota's season-high, seven-run second inning that carried the Twins to a rout over Boston.

David Ortiz went 0 for 5 with two strikeouts and three groundouts to snap his 27-game hitting streak, dating back to last season. Ortiz had hit safely in his first 15 games this season, giving him Boston's longest since Manny Ramirez also hit in 27 straight in 2006.

Rays 10, Blue Jays 4

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Matt Moore won his sixth straight decision to start the season, Evan Longoria drove in three runs, and Tampa Bay beat Toronto.

Moore (6-0) overcame control issues, allowing two runs, six hits and four walks in five innings. The left-hander threw 104 pitches, including 56 strikes, during his seventh start of the year.

Astros 3, Angels 1

In Houston, Bud Norris pitched into the ninth inning and Chris Carter homered for the second straight game to help Houston over Los Angeles.

The victory gives Houston its third series win of the season. The Angels dropped to 4-13 away from Anaheim.

Marwin Gonzalez and Jimmy Paredes hit RBI doubles in the third before Carter connected on his team-leading eighth homer in the fifth inning to make it 3-0.

Orioles 5, Royals 3

In Baltimore, J.J. Hardy homered, Chris Tillman won his third straight start and Baltimore took advantage of three errors by Kansas City in a victory.

Manny Machado scored a run and hit an RBI single for the Orioles, whose season-high fourth consecutive win moved them eight games over .500 (21-13) for the first time this year.

Baltimore has been outhit in each of its past three games, including 7-5 in this one. The Orioles are 3-6 when outhit by their opponent.

Giants 4, Phillies 3

In San Francisco, Andres Torres lined a game-ending single to right field with two outs in the 10th inning, lifting the San Francisco Giants to a victory against the Philadelphia Phillies.

Javier Lopez (1-0) pitched the 10th for the win after Sergio Romo blew his second save in 14 opportunities, failing to finish off Barry Zito's gem.

Buster Posey hit a pinch-hit single to start the 10th against Antonio Bastardo (1-1) and was sacrificed to second by Joaquin Arias. Posey advanced to third on a wild pitch before Torres came through with his fourth career game-ending hit.

Padres 1, Marlins 0

In San Diego, Jason Marquis outpitched Ricky Nolasco, Yonder Alonso had a sacrifice fly in the sixth inning and San Diego completed a three-game sweep of Miami.

Marquis (4-2) allowed five hits, walked one and struck out three in eight innings, his longest stint since last Aug. 11th when he had a 5-0 shutout at Pittsburgh.

Huston Street pitched the ninth to pick up his eighth save in eight chances.

Cardinals 5, Cubs 4

In Chicago, Carlos Beltran and Jon Jay drove in two runs apiece, and St. Louis won for the seventh time in eight games to improve to a major league-best 14-7 on the road.

Beltran also had three hits as St. Louis went 5-1 on a six-game swing to Milwaukee and Chicago, with the lone loss coming Tuesday in their first game of the season against the last-place Cubs.

Braves 7, Reds 2

In Cincinnati, Dan Uggla hit a pair of solo homers and Juan Francisco added his first career grand slam as Atlanta recovered from a stunning last-swing loss the previous day.

Atlanta took two of three, the first series the Reds lost at home this season.

Devin Mesoraco and Shin-Soo Choo hit two-out homers in the ninth for Cincinnati's 5-4 win on Tuesday. A day later, one of the NL's top power teams got the better of it.

Diamondbacks 3, Dodgers 2

In Los Angeles, Paul Goldschmidt homered twice, including a tie-breaking shot for the second straight game, lifting Arizona over slumping Los Angeles.

The D-backs completed a three-game sweep of the Dodgers, who have dropped a season-high seven straight games.

Goldschmidt homered to left field in the eighth with two outs. He also hit a two-run shot off Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw in the sixth.

Yankees 3, Rockies 2

In Denver, pinch-hitter Brennan Boesch hit a tiebreaking infield single with the bases loaded in the ninth off closer Rafael Betancourt and New York snapped a five-game skid at Coors Field.

Vernon Wells had a two-run homer in the first and scored the decisive run when third baseman Nolan Arenado couldn't throw out a hustling Boesch after a diving stop.

Rangers 4, Brewers 1

In Milwaukee, Derek Holland allowed one run over seven shaky innings and the Texas Rangers benefited from two Milwaukee baserunning blunders to beat the Brewers 4-1 Wednesday night.

Holland (3-2), who struck out six and walked none, yielded 10 hits — including two in the second, three in the third and three in the sixth. He escaped with the help of some sloppy baserunning by the Brewers, who had a runner thrown out at the plate to end the third and another thrown out at third base in the sixth.

Nationals 3 Tigers 1

In Washington, Bryce Harper hit a solo homer and drove in another run with a sacrifice fly, Jordan Zimmermann won his NL-leading sixth game and Washington for the fifth time in six games.

Denard Span added a triple and a single for Washington, which has won five of six.

Zimmermann (6-1), whose scoreless streak was snapped at 20 innings in the third, allowing a run on seven hits over seven innings. He fanned seven and lowered his ERA to 1.59 in winning his third straight start.

White Sox 6, Mets 3

In New York, Jake Peavy pitched three-hit ball in his return from a balky back, Alejandro De Aza had a leadoff homer and Chicago earned a split of the two-game interleague series.

Alex Rios homered among his three hits and knocked in two runs for the White Sox. Conor Gillaspie blooped a two-run double off Jeremy Hefner (0-4) as Chicago's struggling hitters finally found a few holes.

Rios also had an RBI double and Paul Konerko a run-scoring single to help the last-place White Sox take the finale of a 4-4 road trip.

Mariners 2, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, Felix Hernandez scattered six hits and Jesus Montero broke a tie with a solo home run in the seventh inning off A.J. Burnett to lead Seattle.

Hernandez (5-2) struck out five and walked one to improve to 4-0 in his last five starts while shaving his ERA to 1.53. The right-hander shook off a shaky first inning then settled down to allow four base runners in his final seven innings of work. Tom Wilhelmsen worked the ninth for his ninth save.

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Adobo rolls to fifth straight win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Adobo stretched its winning streak in the 2013 DLX Invitational Basketball League to five after defeating Wanted Sponsor, 74-63, last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Lester Vertudez sizzled for 32 points in the Adobo win, which is the team's 16th straight dating back to DLX's last season. Adobo won last season's championship with a regular season sweep and a title win over Gualo Rai. This season, Adobo is just a victory away from sweeping Bracket A and is likely to notch the automatic semis ticket in its group.

Wanted Sponsor has yet to win after two games despite giving Adobo a good fight in the third period. A 21-12 run in the third canto moved Wanted Sponsor within three, 46-49. Raymark Castro and Bart Demapan scored 7 points apiece in the third frame to turn a 25-37 deficit to a one-possession game.

Adobo managed to build a double-digit lead in the first half after Vertudez fired 22 points. Vertudez was then held to 4 points and the rest of his teammates were limited to four field goals to give Adobo a precarious 3-point lead.

Vertudez then regained his shooting touch in the fourth canto and drew help from Mike Saturno to foil Wanted Sponsor's upset bid. Saturno drained 10 of his 17 points in the final canto, while Vertudez added 7 more markers.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Adobo's Lester Vertudez, seen here driving against three Maplas defenders, scored 32 points in their 74-63 win over Wanted Sponsor in the DLX caging last Wednesday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

King's 86, Yuchiro 63

King's (1-1) also posted double-digit winning margin against Yuichiro (1-4) in the Bracket B game.

After a close first quarter, King's began pulling away in the second period to hand Yuichiro its third straight loss. John Jugos and Bryle Alegre teamed up in the second canto, combining for 16 of their 23 points, with the former scoring King's' last 6 markers and giving their team a 46-30 lead.

Before the second-quarter breakaway, King's was only ahead by 6, 23-17, with Alegre drilling 6 of their last 9 points in the first canto. Jugos scored the other 3. The duo continued to anchor King's offense in the second half with Alegre doing the damage inside and Jugos connecting on three more triples.

Alegre finished with a game-high 33 points, while Jugos chipped in 27.

First Game

King's 86 – Alegre 33, Jugos 27, De Guzman 13, Mariano 10, Villanueva 3.

Yuichiro 70 – Sacramento 26, Gomez 12, Enriquez 10, Cultura 7, Dayrit 4, Babauta 4, Sanciangco 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-17, 46-30, 66-49, 86-70.

Second Game

Adobo 74 – Vertudez 32, Saturno 17, Hemley 6, Deleon Guerrero 5, Dela Cruz 5, Yap 4, Apelo 2.

Wanted Sponsor 63 – Demapan 16, Lerio 16, Castro 13, Cadag 6, Siriban 5, Diyco 3.

Scoring by quarters: 24-16, 37-25, 49-46, 74-63.

Ronde Barber to retire after 16 seasons with Bucs

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Three-time All-Pro Ronde Barber is retiring after a 16-year career with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers that included a Super Bowl title and five Pro Bowl appearances.

The Bucs announced Wednesday night that the 38-year-old twin brother of former New York Giants running back Tiki Barber will not return to play on a defense overhauled since the end of last season. Tampa Bay acquired Darrelle Revis, Dashon Goldson and second-round draft pick Johnthan Banks for its secondary.

The retirement was first reported by Fox Sports.com, who quoted Barber as saying: "I've had a better run than I ever could've dreamed of having."

Tiki Barber, who retired from the Giants after the 2006 season, had a post on his Twitter account that read: "Congrats & happy for my twin, Ronde, who's hanging up the cleats!"

Ronde Barber played cornerback for 15 seasons before moving to safety last year. He played his entire career with the Bucs and is the franchise leader in interceptions with 47. He also scored eight touchdowns and had 28 sacks in 241 games.

"Ronde is synonymous with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, establishing himself as one of our franchise's iconic players over a 16-year, Hall of Fame-worthy career," Bucs co-chairman Joel Glazer said in a statement. "When anyone thinks of Ronde, they think of a true professional and leader. He approached every day the same, giving everything he had to make himself and his teammates the best they could be. We will miss him."

NMA

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Joy Pena (1.18), while Saipan Community School's Kevin Lee won in the boys U14 division with his 1.38m.

Besides the high jump, the organizing Northern Marianas Athletics also held 1,500m, 800m, and 60m races in Day 1of the three-day competition.

In the 1,500 races, Ellie Epley (7:10.37) of Whispering Palms and Rintaro Miyawaki (5:58.88) of SIS topped the U8 group; William S. Reyes Conatsu Kaga (6:02.46) and Martin Angui (5:59.30) won in the U10; Koblerville's They Tyvieanne (6:28.69) and SCS' Nathaniel Lim (5:59.28) reigned in the U12; SIS' Malika Miyawaki (6:34.00) and Hopwood's Peter Anore (5:34:07) ruled the U14; and MHS' Gabrielle Race (5:51.64) and Michael Mancao (4:55.80) prevailed in the U18.

Miyawaki also won in the 800m races with his 2:58.16, sharing the U8 honors with female winner Emeling Mendiola (3:36.38) of Dandan Elementary School. Also getting first place finishes in the same event were U10's Leilanu Babauta (3:18.06) and Casey Figueroa (3:06.98) of Koblerville; U12's Richelle Ramon (3:16.12) of Dandan and Traven Quitugua (2:54.62) of Tanapag; U14's Catherine Atalig (3:22.55) of SIS and Elnathan Wong (2:24.67) of SCS; and U18's Race (2:54.17) and Mancao (2:10.36).

In the 60m sprint, Koblerville swept the U8 age group with Katie Kalen (10:13 seconds) winning the girls race and Tommy Ada (9.68 seconds) prevailing in the boys contest. Also notching gold medals in the 60m sprints were U10's Kurstin King (8.95 seconds) of Koblerville and Frederick Francisco (9.14 seconds) of San Vicente; U12's Madlyn Assito (8.86 seconds) of Koblerville and Lim (8.36 seconds); U14's Virginia Imperial (8.35 seconds) and Christian Morales (7.33 seconds) of Hopwood; and U18's Abrams (8.06 seconds) and John Santy (6.89 seconds) of MHS.

Meanwhile, the All Schools meet kicked off with the parade of participating schools. Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D, and McDonald's executive assistant to the president Mabel Ayuyu joined NMA president, Rep. Ramon Tebuteb (IR-Saipan), and secretary general Robin Sapong in the opening ceremonies.

YANKEES

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short series. Also aiming for a sweep in the other semis pairing is the Tan Holdings Brewers, who meet the D-9ers in Game 2 tonight, following their 18-8 triumph in Game 1 last Monday. Winners of the two semis duels will collide in a best-of-five title showdown.

T.J. Agulto boosted the Yankees' bid for a slot in the championship series after pitching seven innings and allowing only three hits. He had a no-hitter in the first three innings before allowing a triple in the fourth and two singles in the seventh. The Yankees pitcher struck out five and drew help from their outfielders and basemen, who caught 10 fly balls.

Agulto started the game hitting Fielders leadoff batter Jimmy Brel who was left stranded at first as the next two batters flied out to center.

While the Fielders were off at the get-go, as they were also done at bat after only three batters in the second inning, the Yankees made it to the scoreboard early. Ben Jones Jr. singled and was later driven home by Brian Camacho's homer. The Yankees then stretched their lead to 8-0, off Chris Camacho's two-run single and Jerome Delos Santos and Frank Robert's RBI singles. The two other runs came off errors.

The Fielders went on to give up seven more runs off their miscues, as they failed to follow instructions from manager Pat Tenorio, who urged his wards to limit their errors to have a chance against the favored Yankees.

With the Fielders continuing to commit mistakes on the defensive end, the Yankees got three more runs in the next two innings, while the former finally made it to the board at the top of the fourth off a Pat Tenorio Jr. RBI triple.

The younger Tenorio's hit could not spark a rally from the Fielders, who tried to hang in there, hoping to bring the game to nine innings, but fell two and a half inning short. The Yankees tucked in three runs at the bottom sixth, off a two-RBI single from Brian Camacho and a sacrifice fly, to post a 15-1 advantage and force the Fielders to score at least five runs to extend Game 1.

Jordan Pangelinan led off for the Fielders and advanced on a Yankees error at left fielder. He later reached home off a Ricardo Dela Cruz RBI single and the latter also scored off an error. A sacrifice fly from Poland Masaharu gave the Fielders their third run in the inning, but that was also the last for the team, as Joe Palacios flied out, while Marvin Ngeskebei's linedrive was picked up by right fielder Jack Castro for the third out.

Brian Camacho went 3-for-5 at the plate for the Yankees and scored four RBIs, two runs, and two singles. Jones was 4-for-5 and although he did not have an RBI, he contributed five runs to help the Yankees' cause.

TSUNAMI

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pete in short course first and then let them debut for 50m long course meet. At this short course meet, a lot of young swimmers came up and some of them are ready for long course meet this weekend," Kimura said.

In the 20m freestyle, 8-year-old Kenshiro Yanai posted the fastest time at 14.33 seconds, followed by Juhn Tenorio (15.01 seconds), Tychicus Xu (15.44 seconds), Morgan Kim (16.05 seconds), and Jhota Yoshino (16.50 seconds). Twenty-seven others participated in the 20m freestyle race, including the youngest swimmer on the field—5-year-old Jessiana Tenorio—who clocked in at 36.50 seconds.

In the 40m freestyle, Tsunami Saipan senior swimmer Takumi Sugie had the best time at 22.35 seconds, edging Kaito Tai (22.72 seconds), Angel De Jesus (24.03 seconds), Angel Marie Tan (24.14 seconds), and Hiroto Yanai (24.16 seconds). The 40m freestyle event lured 18 swimmers.

In the 20m breaststroke, 10 competed led by Xu, who submitted 21.14 seconds to beat the 23.94 seconds and 25.53 seconds of his siblings Hans Xu and Silas Su, respectively. Natsuki Nagata (25.67 seconds) and Nanaka Watanabe (26.41 seconds) rounded out the Top 5.

In the 40m breaststroke, Kaito Yanai finished ahead of Sugie, timing in at 27.27 seconds against the latter's 30.46 seconds. Tan was third at 31.41 seconds, but it was the fastest in the girls field, beating the 33.97 seconds of De Jesus, while Hiroto Yanai made it to the Top 5 anew with his 31.69 seconds.

Kanai topped the 40m backstroke, too, posing 24.84 seconds and joining him in the Top 5 were Sugie (26.16 seconds), Tan (27.04 seconds), Miku Tammy (28.08 seconds), and De Jesus (28.24 seconds).

Siblings Tychicus and Hans Xu had a 1-2 finish in the 20m backstroke after clocking in at 19.18 seconds and 20.23 seconds. Nelson Batallones came in at third with his 20.21 seconds, followed by Daniel Heo (21.29 seconds), and Silas Xu (21.91 seconds).

Batallones also joined the 20m butterfly (with kick board) and recorded the fastest time at 18.97 seconds, while Tychicus had the second best time at 19.55, followed by Anthony Deleon Guerrero (20.15 seconds), Ashley Dangol (20.47 seconds), and Hans Xu (20.85 seconds).

In the 40m butterfly, Kaito Yanai was still the top finisher with his 24.88 seconds. Sugie was ranked second anew with his 25.03 seconds, while the next three finishers were all girls with Tan (26.11 seconds) in third and De Jesus (26.71 seconds) and Tammy (26.88 seconds) in fourth and fifth, respectively.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	21	13	.618	–
Boston	21	13	.618	–
New York	19	13	.594	1
Tampa Bay	15	18	.455	5 1/2
Toronto	13	22	.371	8 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	19	12	.613	–
Kansas City	17	13	.567	1 1/2
Cleveland	17	14	.548	2
Minnesota	15	15	.500	3 1/2
Chicago	14	18	.438	5 1/2

West Division

Texas	21	13	.618	–
Oakland	18	17	.514	3 1/2
Seattle	16	19	.457	5 1/2
Los Angeles	11	22	.333	9 1/2
Houston	10	24	.294	11

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	20	13	.606	–
Washington	18	15	.545	2
Philadelphia	16	19	.457	5
New York	13	17	.433	5 1/2
Miami	10	25	.286	11

Central Division

St. Louis	21	12	.636	–
Pittsburgh	18	15	.545	3
Cincinnati	19	16	.543	3
Milwaukee	15	17	.469	5 1/2
Chicago	13	21	.382	8 1/2

West Division

San Francisco	20	14	.588	–
Colorado	19	14	.576	1/2
Arizona	19	15	.559	1
San Diego	16	18	.471	4
Los Angeles	13	20	.394	6 1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two in a row for Shirley's, DFS

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Shirley's nabbed back-to-back wins in the Shirley's Coffee Shop Basketball League after outclassing Mariana Resort, 98-87, last Wednesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Shirley's, which lost its first game of the season, had a jackrabbit start and after a meltdown in the second quarter, it dominated Mariana Resort in the second half to improve to a 2-1 record and move to second place, tying the Hoopaholics and Mobil.

Sheen Metran drilled four triples in the opening quarter and Fradel Sedillo and Erick Dela Rosa chipped in 8 points apiece to lift Shirley's to an early double-digit lead, 34-23.

Mariana Resort then launched a comeback midway in the second canto, as Leo Galarse and Edwin Camacho reported to the game after missing the first period. Galarse knocked in 10 quick points and Mariana Resort stole the lead at the break, 49-46.

However, Shirley's regrouped in the second half with its balance scoring to reclaim the driver's seat at the end of the third, 72-68. Five Shirley's players nailed 4 points apiece in the third canto, as they outgunned Mariana Resort, 26-19.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Shirley's Erick Dela Rosa gets away from a couple of Mariana Resort defenders during the second quarter of their game in the Shirley's caging last Wednesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Galarse and Darwin Barbo, who combined for 21 points at halftime, was held to one field goal apiece in the third, as Mariana Resort leaned heavily on the three triples of James Abuy.

Barbo tried to redeem himself in the fourth quarter, but had to earn his points from the foul line, while Galarse was again contained to one field goal and two charities, while Abuy went scoreless. With the three Mariana Resort gunners struggling, Shirley's coasted to victory in the fourth period behind the 14 markers of J.R. Barrios.

Barrios, Dela Rosa, and Errol Peredo top-scored for Shirley's with their 18 points apiece, while Sedillo and Metran contributed 16 each.

Abuy and Barbo had 21 apiece for Mariana Resort, while Galarse was only the third player on the team to score in twin digits with his 18.

In the second game, DFS scored 31 points in the pivotal third quarter to beat Docomo, 87-77, and gain its second straight win after dropping the season opener against the Hoops.

DFS was down by 5 at the break, 39-44, when Keoni Chariton sparked a rally in the third period. Chariton fired 13 points in the third canto, including two of DFS' five triples to grab the lead, 70-57. Bino Libuw also contributed in the third frame, nailing 8 points, 6 of them came from the 3-point area.

Docomo, which was limited to 13 points in the third quarter, never recovered from thereon, absorbing its second consecutive loss after a 2-0 start.

First Game

Shirley's 98 – Barrios 18, Peredo 18, Dela Rosa 18, Sedillo 16, Metran 16, Montes 4, Usi 2.

Mariana Resort 87 – Abuy 21, Barbo 21, Galarse 18, Capuli 9, Camacho 5, Ocanada 4, Aquino 4.

Scoring by quarters: 34-23, 46-49, 72-68, 98-87.

Second Game

DFS Galleria 87 – Chariton 25, Barcinas 22, Guiab 10, Libuw 8, Lizama 3, Hirochi 3, Ngiraikelau 2.

Docomo Pacific 77 – Mangali 21, Paraiso 14, Sison 12, Berline 10, Sanciangco 6, Tudela 2, Alvarez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-19, 39-44, 70-57, 87-77.

SPORTS BRIEFS

SBA May roll-offs start Sunday

The Saipan Bowling Association's Budweiser May King and Queen of the Lanes Tournament will kick off this Sunday and run until Monday at the Saipan Bowling Center. Male and female bowlers have the option to bowl on Sunday or Monday or both days, but only the higher score will be counted. Entry fee is $15 and bowlers will only be allowed to compete if they already paid the $15 SBA annual membership fee. Cash prizes will be awarded depending on the number of entries. The Queen of the Lanes event will only award cash prizes if at least 10 join the event. Sunday's contest will start at 3:30pm, while Monday's games will begin at 6pm. Meanwhile, the Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes will only be played this Sunday. Entry fee is only $10. For more information, contact Ross Zapanta at 288-5627 or send email to zapanta@pticom.com. ***(PR)***

PIC Dodgeball May 18

The Pacific Islands Club Dodgeball Tournament 2013 for elementary school students will be held on May 18. Only the first 16 teams to register and pay the $100 entrance fees will be allowed to compete in the weekend tournament. Each squad can have 6 to 10 players on its roster, but there must be two female members in every team. Registration and waiver forms must be submitted on or before May 16. Games will start at 9:30am with pool plays for Brackets A and B, while Brackets C and D will begin their matches at 10:30am. Each game will be played for three minutes. For more information, contact Dennis Tababa or Glenn Policare at 237-5147 or email at dennis.tababa@picsaipan.com or glenn.policare@picsaipan.com. ***(PR)***

NMISF holds last meet of the season

Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation will host the last meet for the 2012-2013 season this Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool. Races will run from 8am to 10:30am. More than 100 swimmers in the 6 to 17 age group will compete in 10 events—50m and 100m freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, and butterfly, 200m freestyle, and 200m individual medley. ***(PR)***

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Bulls get rolled by Miami, lose Game 2
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Two in a row for Shirley's, DFS
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McCullough-Stearns leads medalist in Day 1

Saipan International School's Clay McCullough-Stearns competes in the high jump event of the 2013 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Championships held last Wednesday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Reigning NMASA/TSL Foundation Male Student Athlete of the Year Clay McCollough-Stearns was among the gold medalists in the opening day of the 2013 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Championships held last Wednesday at the Olea Sports Complex.

Northern Marianas Athletics

Stearns submitted 1.64m in the high jump to beat fellow Saipan International School student Chris Lam, who logged 1.40m. Feng Xuan Xu (1.40m) made it a Top 3 finish for the Geckos in the boys U18 division. In the girls U18 age group, Marianas High School's Rachel Abrams posted 1.35m to beat schoolmate Friendly

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Yankees coast to Game 1 win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Defending champion Saipan Stevedore Northern Yankees moved a win away from earning a return trip to the finals after cruising past the IP&E Fielders, 15-4, in Game 1 of their semis series in the 2013 Saipan Major League last Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Yankees won Game 1 of the best-of-three series after only six and a half innings via 10-run mercy rule. The two teams will face anew on Monday with the Yankees going for a sweep and the third-ranked Fielders hoping to extend the

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Saipan Stevedore Northern Yankees huddle before the start of Game 1 of their SML semis series against the IP&E Fielders last Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Tsunami Saipan short course meet draws 47

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Forty-seven swimmers joined a short course meet Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center held at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool late last month.

According to Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura, the meet featured races in the 20m and 40m freestyle, 20m and 40m backstroke, 20m and 40m breaststroke, 40m butterfly, and the 20m butterfly with kick board.

"We have this kind of event for the developing swimmers. The 50m long course is too hard for them. We have them com-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Saipan swimmers cheer on their teammates during a short course meet held late last month at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.